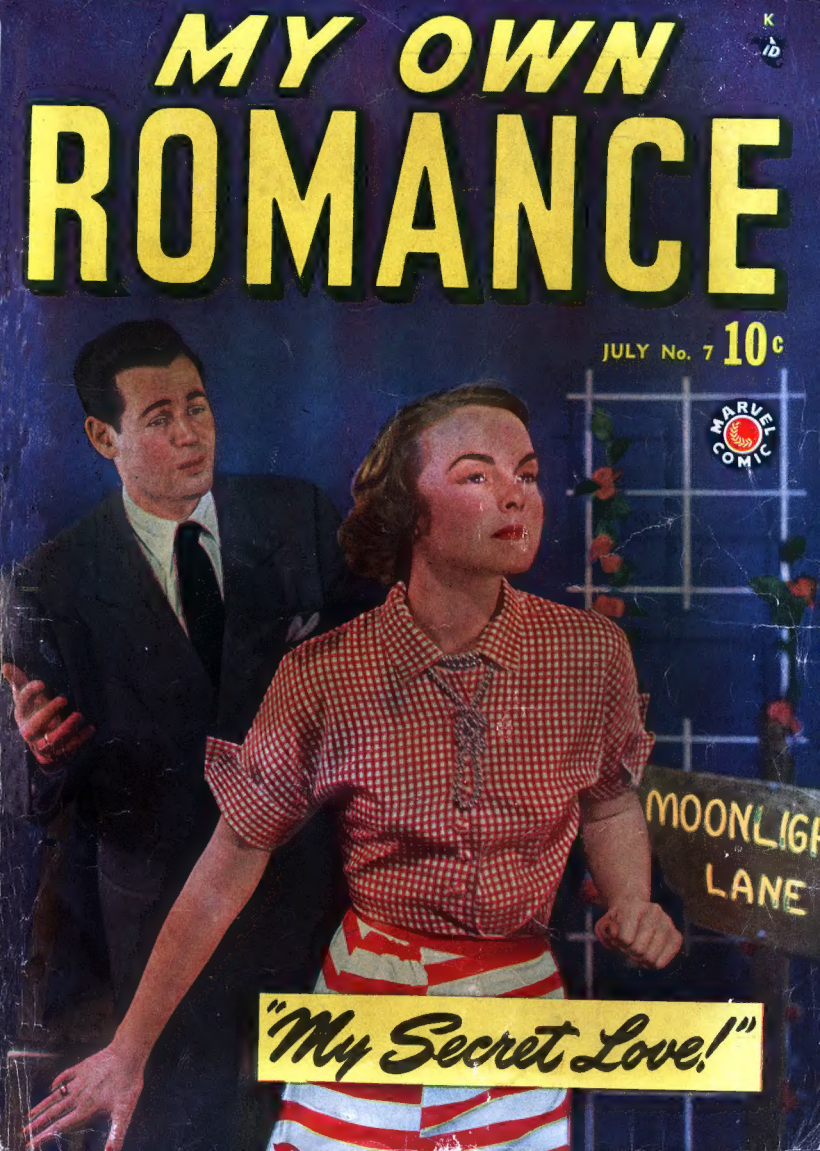
MY OWN
ROMANCE
JULY No. 7 10c
MARVEL COMIC
MOONLIGHT
LANE
"My Secret Love!"

Amazing ALL-OVER RAIN-COVER BARGAIN

U.S. GOV'T SURPLUS — BIGGEST VARIETY OF USES OF ANYTHING YOU EVER OWNED

WISH WE HAD ONE OF THOSE RAIN COVERS INSTEAD OF GETTING CAUGHT WITH ONLY A NEWSPAPER
OH! MY DRESS IS RUINED. HOW WILL I EVER GO TO THAT PARTY TONIGHT?
THIS SUDDEN SHOWER DOESN'T BOTHER US, DOES IT, DARLING?
GEE! I'M GLAD YOU SENT FOR THIS ALL-OVER RAIN-COVER... WE'RE JUST AS SNUG AS "2 BUGS IN A RUG"
WHAT A HAPPY DAY THAT WAS WHEN I GOT THESE ALL OVER RAIN-COVERS FOR ONLY 1¹⁰⁰ EACH

Take it to BALL GAMES, PICNICS, RIDING, HUNTING, FISHING . . . 101 OTHER USES

This newest type, durable, compact, light, all-weather, all-purpose cover-all was made for gas warfare protection. It's all plastic with transparent top. You can see in all directions. It's BIG . . . 52" long, 52" wide. Big enough for two people to keep perfectly dry. Covers you completely . . . hat, coat, shoes and ALL.

Big and roomy as it is, folds to compact package of 4" by 7". Small enough to fit in pocket, lady's purse, golf bag, tackle box, dashboard compartment, etc. Ready instantly if you're caught in rain or sleet storm whether walking, riding, in open car, watching ball game, hunting, fishing, picnicking, etc. Children play tent, too. Insert clothes-hanger and you have dust-proof hamper to store clothes, dresses. Covers baby's carriage. Etc., etc.

Amazing close-out price is only $1.00, and they're going fast. If you don't agree that these specially made cover-alls are worth 4 or 5 times that much, we'll refund your dollar. It's the kind of all-over weather-protection you have wished often you could find. Keeps you as dry and cozy as a bug-in-a-rug because it covers your hat, coat, shoes, and ALL. Rain can't get to you. Get one or two NOW. You will not have another chance like this after this close-out is gone.

SEND NO MONEY. Mail the coupon TODAY. When package arrives in special foil-lined case, deposit only $1.00 plus C.O.D. postage with postman. Open it and SEE what an amazing VARIETY of uses to which you can put it. If not 100% pleased, return in 5 days for money back. BUT HURRY. This is a close-out, and you will never get another one at this bargain price.

SURPLUS SALES, Dept. 54-D A, Joliett, Ill.

YOU WILL NEVER GET ANOTHER ONE AT THIS LOW PRICE ONLY $1.00

Folds to small pocket size pack. carry it anywhere

MAIL THIS COUPON TODAY

SURPLUS SALES, Dept. 54-D A, Joliet, Ill.

Please send me ..... All-weather, All-purpose Cover-all at $1.00 each. I will deposit the total amount of my order with postman, plus C.O.D. Postage on arrival. (If I enclose total amount of my order with coupon, you are to pay all postage charges.)

Name .....

Address .....

City ..... State .....

Y OWN ROMANCE is published monthly by RED CIRCLE MAGAZINES, INC. Office of Publication: 350 5th Avenue, New York 1, N. Y. Entered as second-class matter at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Additional entry at Medina, Ohio. Copyright 1949 by RED CIRCLE MAGAZINES, INC., 350 5th Avenue, New York 1, N. Y. Vol 1 No. 7 JULY 1949 issue. Price 10c per copy. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions appearing in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the U. S. A.

HE CRUSHED ME TO HIM AND I YIELDED! OUR LIPS MET IN A BURNING KISS, AND NOTHING ELSE IN THE WHOLE WORLD SEEMED TO MATTER!

SHOCK FROM THE PAST!

BASED ON A TRUE STORY!

EVERYTHING SEEMED PERFECT...UNTIL THAT TERRIBLE DAY...AND THEN THE PAIN GREW WORSE AS THE HAUNTING PAST RETURNED TO LET MYRA PHILLIPS KNOW NO PEACE!

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CAN LOVE REACH OUT FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE AND SWAY THE EMOTIONS OF THE LIVING? CAN MEMORIES OF THE PAST BRING BACK THOSE WHO HAVE GONE? PERHAPS YOU THINK THESE QUESTIONS SILLY OR TOO CONTROVERSIAL FOR UTTERANCE! BEFORE YOU FORM AN OPINION, LISTEN TO MY STORY...FOR I, MYRA PHILLIPS, WAS IN LOVE WITH A DEAD MAN!

JEFF SAUNDERS AND I WERE SWEETHEARTS SINCE WE WERE IN NEW STANFORD HIGH SCHOOL! WE HAD GROWN UP CONFIDENT IN THAT LOVE AND PERHAPS, NOW, EVEN A LITTLE BORED WITH IT!

WHERE SHOULD WE GO TONIGHT, DEAR?

OH, I DON'T KNOW, JEFF! LET'S DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR A CHANGE!

WE PLANNED TO BE MARRIED IN THE FALL, BUT EVEN THIS DEFINITE NEARNESS TO A CHERISHED GOAL SOMEHOW LACKED THE GREAT EXHILARATION I HAD DREAMED IT WOULD HAVE! COULD IT BE THAT OUR LOVE, STRETCHING OVER THE YEARS, HAD LOST THE EXCITEMENT THAT THE FRESH IMPACT OF A MATURE LOVE BRINGS?

I KNOW! LET'S GO TO THAT NEW CLUB, THE IDLE HOUR, WHICH JUST OPENED!

THE IDLE HOUR IS A GAMBLING HOUSE, HONEY! YOU KNOW I DON'T LIKE TO TAKE YOU TO PLACES LIKE THAT!

PLEASE, JEFF, LET'S NOT BE STUFFY TONIGHT... LET'S BE GAY, DEVILISH, DIFFERENT FROM USUAL! TAKE ME TO THE IDLE HOUR... I WANT TO GAMBLE AND BE RECKLESS FOR A CHANGE!

YOU'RE IN A STRANGE MOOD TONIGHT, MYRA! ALL RIGHT, WE'LL GO TO THE IDLE HOUR CLUB, BUT DON'T BE TOO RECKLESS IN YOUR GAMBLING...REMEMBER, WE'RE JUST A HARD-WORKING COUPLE, SAVING ENOUGH MONEY TO GET MARRIED!

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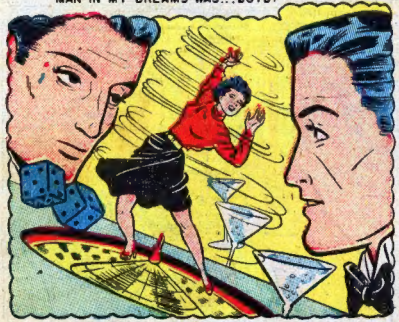
WE REACHED THE IDLE HOUR CLUB AFTER A SHORT DRIVE, PARKED THE CAR, AND ENTERED THE GLITTERING FOYER/
A TABLE FOR TWO, SIR?
YES, PLEASE/
JEFF, I WANT CHAMPAGNE/ THAT'S THE WAY I FEEL TONIGHT...LIKE CHAMPAGNE/
MADAME DESIRES CHAMPAGNE? PERHAPS TONIGHT IS A CELEBRATION?
I'M BEGINNING TO WONDER/ YES, BRING A BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE, PLEASE/
PERHAPS I MIGHT EVEN DRINK MORE THAN I SHOULD/ AM I BEING VERY WICKED TONIGHT, JEFF DEAR?
THE WINE CAME AND WE DRANK A BIT, BUT I WAS STILL RESTLESS... I FELT AS THOUGH I WAS WAITING FOR SOMETHING TO HAPPEN...SOMETHING TREMENDOUSLY EXCITING/
JEFF, I WANT TO GAMBLE/ ASK THE WAITER WHERE THE GAMBLING ROOMS ARE/
I'M AFRAID YOU'RE GOING TO BE DISAPPOINTED, DEAR/ WE'RE NOT KNOWN HERE SO I DOUBT WHETHER THEY'D EVEN ADMIT THEY HAVE GAMBLING/ BUT SINCE IT'S YOUR WISH, I'LL TRY/...OH, WAITER/
MY FIANCÉE WOULD LIKE TO TRY HER LUCK/ WILL YOU DIRECT US TO THE GAMBLING ROOMS...
I AM SO SORRY/ MONSIEUR MUST HAVE BEEN MISINFORMED ...WE HAVE NO GAMBLING HERE/
OH, PLEASE DON'T BE DIFFICULT, WAITER/ SURELY WE DON'T LOOK LIKE POLICEMEN, DO WE?
THEN, BEHIND ME, SOMEONE SPOKE...A MAN'S VOICE, DEEP, RESONANT...IT WENT THROUGH ME IN A THRILLING WAVE LIKE A RINGING CHORD IN A HALF-FORGOTTEN MELODY/
NEVER HAS A POLICEMAN BEEN SO CHARMING AND LOVELY, BELIEVE ME/ PIERRE, BRING ANOTHER BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE, WILL YOU?
MONSIEUR MALCOME/ PERMIT ME TO APOLOGIZE/ I DID NOT REALIZE THIS LADY AND GENTLEMAN WERE YOUR GUESTS/
SAY, WAIT A MINUTE...
I TURNED TO THE OWNER OF THE VOICE, AND MY HEART BEAT A LITTLE FASTER AS I LOOKED UP AT THE TALL, HANDSOME MAN WHOSE CHARMING SMILE LIT THE EYES -- LOOKING DOWN INTO MINE/
I HOPE I'M NOT INTRUDING/ I HEARD YOUR CONVERSATION WITH THE WAITER, AND I THOUGHT PERHAPS I COULD BE OF SERVICE/
I'M JEFF SAUNDERS AND THIS IS MISS PHILLIPS, BUT I REALLY...
WON'T YOU JOIN US, MISTER MALCOME?
THAT'S HOW I FIRST MET CHARMING, ROMANTIC BOYD/ WITH HIS COMING, THE EVENING BECAME GAY AND ENCHANTING/ WE DRANK SOME MORE CHAMPAGNE AND THEN BOYD LED US TO THE GAMBLING ROOMS/
IT'S GETTING RATHER LATE, MYRA/
OH, BOTHER THE TIME... LOOK, I'VE WON AGAIN/ THIS IS WONDERFUL/
LUCK AND LOVELINESS TOGETHER...A RARE COMBINATION/ I'M GOING TO BACK YOUR PLAY, MY DEAR/

I WENT TO BED THAT NIGHT WITH MY HEAD IN THE CLOUDS AND MY HEART SINGING A LILTING MELODY... AND I DREAMT A GAY ROMANTIC DREAM, AND THE MAN IN MY DREAMS WAS...BOYD!



THE NEXT DAY BOYD CALLED ME AND ASKED ME TO JOIN HIM THAT NIGHT FOR AN EVENING OF GAIETY! I SAID I WOULD--AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE I LIED TO JEFF!

HELLO, JEFF? OH, JEFF DEAR, I CALLED TO TELL YOU THAT I'M GOING UP TO MILFORD TO SEE AUNT BLANCHE, SO DON'T CALL FOR ME TONIGHT! WHAT?...OF COURSE I WILL!...YES!... YES, I WILL! GOOD-BYE, DARLING!

THE DAY PASSED SO SLOWLY IT SEEMED AS THOUGH EVENING AND BOYD WOULD NEVER COME...BUT EVEN A DAY MUST END, AND...

ORCHIDS! OH, BOYD, HOW PERFECTLY MARVELOUS! THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL!
BEAUTIFUL ONLY WHEN YOU WEAR THEM, MY DEAR, AND STILL NOT SO LOVELY AS YOU!

WE DINED AND DANCED AND THEN PLAYED ROULETTE AGAIN... AND AGAIN WE BOTH WON! BOYD WAS WONDERFUL! HE SEEMED TO KNOW EVERYONE! HIS TALL, POWERFUL FORM, HANDSOME, SMILING FACE, AND THRILLING VOICE SEEMED FAMILIAR TO MOST OF THE IDLE HOUR CLUB PATRONS!

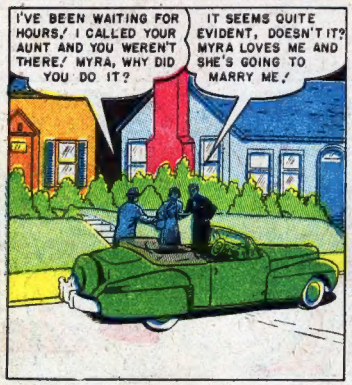
HE TOOK ME HOME AS DAWN WAS PAINTING THE VELVET-BLACK SKY WITH BRILLIANT STREAKS OF GOLD AND RED! THOUGH I WAS TIRED, STILL I HAD NEVER FELT MORE ALIVE, MORE FULL OF THE ZEST OF LIFE!

HE TURNED ME TO FACE HIM, AND MY HEART SKIPPED AND FLUTTERED WHEN I SAW WHAT WAS IN HIS EYES!

MYRA, DARLING, YOU'RE MY LUCK... I CAN'T LET YOU GO...MYRA, MARRY ME...WE'LL SEE THE WORLD...WE'LL PLAY AND DANCE THROUGH LIFE...YOU AND I TOGETHER...MYRA, MY DARLING!

HE CRUSHED ME TO HIM AND I YIELDED./ OUR LIPS MET IN A BURNING KISS, AND NOTHING ELSE IN THE WHOLE WORLD SEEMED TO MATTER/

FROM FAR AWAY, SOMEONE CALLED MY NAME./ THE SOUND RUSHED CLOSER, DRAGGING ME BACK TO EARTH--"MYRA... MYRA..." THE VOICE WAS JEFF'S./
MYRA/ I NEVER WOULD HAVE BELIEVED IT/
JEFF./


I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR HOURS,/ I CALLED YOUR AUNT AND YOU WEREN'T THERE./ MYRA, WHY DID YOU DO IT?
IT SEEMS QUITE EVIDENT, DOESN'T IT? MYRA LOVES ME AND SHE'S GOING TO MARRY ME./

POOR JEFF./ I LOOKED INTO HIS CRESTFALLEN FACE... AND FOR A MOMENT MY HEART WENT OUT TO HIM./ HOW COULD I HURT HIM LIKE THIS...THIS MAN WHOM I KNEW SO WELL AND HAD LOVED SO LONG? THEN MY EYES WENT TO BOYD'S SMILING GREEK-GOD FACE... AND MY HEART WAS IN MY EYES./
MYRA, TELL ME, IS IT TRUE... WHAT HE SAYS?
YES, JEFF... I LOVE BOYD AND I'M GOING TO MARRY HIM./

ARE YOU SURE, MYRA? YOU'VE ONLY KNOWN HIM A MATTER OF HOURS./ YOU'RE NOT MAKING A MISTAKE?
I'M SURE, JEFF./ I'M SORRY IT HAD TO BE THIS WAY,.. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY...

IT DOESN'T MATTER ABOUT ME ... AS LONG AS YOU'RE HAPPY./ THAT'S ALL I'VE EVER WANTED! GOODBYE, MY DEAR./... I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU./ IF YOU EVER NEED ME, YOU KNOW WHERE I AM./
SHE'LL NEVER NEED YOU, OLD MAN./ I'LL BE AROUND FROM NOW ON./

I'M DOING THIS FOR MYRA, NOT FOR YOU./ I'M WALKING OUT WITHOUT A FIGHT BECAUSE SHE LOVES YOU AND WANTS YOU... I'M QUITTING EASY SO'S NOT TO CAUSE MYRA ANY DISTRESS... BUT BE GOOD TO HER, BOYD, OR SO HELP ME YOU'LL WISH YOU'D NEVER BEEN BORN./
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I WATCHED JEFF WALK AWAY... I RAISED MY ARM AS THOUGH TO STOP HIM... I WANTED TO CALL HIM BACK... TO TELL HIM IT WAS ALL A GHASTLY MISTAKE./ THEN BOYD'S ARM SLIPPED AROUND MY WAIST AND JEFF WAS GONE... AND BOYD AND I WERE ALONE./

THE LAD'S A GOOD LOSER./ I'M GLAD THAT'S OVER./

YES--THAT'S OVER./

AS JEFF VANISHED INTO THE PALE LIGHT OF DAWN, IT SEEMED AS THOUGH SOMETHING FINE, SOMETHING OF MY YOUTH AND THE SWEET PAST HAD GONE WITH HIM./ I FELT ALL MIXED UP INSIDE--SUDDENLY TIRED./ THEN THE TEARS CAME... TEARS THAT SEEMED TO WASH AWAY ALL THAT JEFF AND I HAD KNOWN TOGETHER./

PLEASE, DARLING, NO TEARS./ YOU'RE TIRED./ LISTEN, YOU GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP AND TOMORROW WE'LL MAKE OUR PLANS./ WE'LL BE MARRIED AS SOON AS WE POSSIBLY CAN... IF THAT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOU, DEAR./

ANY... ANYTHING YOU SAY, BOYD./

THE NEXT DAY I MET BOYD FOR LUNCH./ MY HEART WAS STILL SORE WITH THE THOUGHT OF JEFF, BUT BOYD'S GAY BANTER AND ENTHUSIASTIC PLANS SOON DROVE AWAY THE CLOUDS OF REMORSE, AND MY LOVE FOR HIM SHONE THROUGH LIKE SUNBEAMS THROUGH STORMY CLOUDS./

SO IT'S ALL ARRANGED./ I'LL MEET YOU AT THE PREACHER'S AND WE'LL BE MARRIED--THEN OFF TO PARIS FOR OUR HONEYMOON./ THEN MONTE CARLO, NICE, AND THE REST OF THE WORLD AS OUR PLAYGROUND./

IT SOUNDS MARVELOUS, DARLING./

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE... I HAVE LOADS OF THINGS TO DO... PLANE TICKETS, BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS, AND ALL THAT SORT OF THING./

IT DOESN'T SEEM QUITE REAL... MARRIAGE, PARIS, EUROPE! ...DARLING, YOU SOUND AS THOUGH YOU OWN A MAGIC CARPET./

WITH YOU BESIDE ME TO BRING ME LUCK, I'LL GET YOU A MAGIC CARPET./ I'VE GOT TO RUN./ REMEMBER, DARLING, 12:30 AT THE MINISTER'S, WALL STREET, TOMORROW./

CAFÉ

'BYE, DARLING./

I WENT HOME AND PACKED... AND, IN THE SOLITUDE OF MY ROOM, SAID GOOD-BYE TO MY MEMORIES OF THE PAST./

GOOD-BYE, JEFF, AND THANKS FOR EVERYTHING... ALL THE THINGS THAT WERE YOU AND I TOGETHER... GOOD-BYE, AND PLEASE FIND HAPPINESS AS I HAVE... HAPPINESS AND LOVE./

THE NEXT DAY, AT 12:15, I REACHED THE LITTLE COTTAGE AT 40 WALL STREET./ BOYD HADN'T ARRIVED YET... BUT I WAS EARLY./

COME IN, MY DEAR./ MR. MALCOME MADE ALL THE ARRANGEMENTS AND WE CAN GO RIGHT AHEAD WITH THE CEREMONY AS SOON AS HE ARRIVES./

WHAT A LOVELY BRIDE YOU MAKE, MY DEAR./

THANK YOU./ I HOPE BOYD GETS HERE SOON... I'M A LITTLE JITTERY./

THE OLD-FASHIONED GRANDFATHER CLOCK IN THE HALL SLOWLY WORE AWAY THE TIME...THEN STRUCK THE HALF-HOUR...AND STILL NO SIGN OF BOYD.

DON'T BE NERVOUS, DEAR. YOUR MAN HAS PROBABLY BEEN HELD UP IN TRAFFIC. I'LL GET YOU A DROP OF WINE TO CALM YOUR NERVES.

PLEASE DON'T BOTHER. I'M ALL RIGHT.

BONG!

THE OLD CLOCK TICKED ON RELENTLESSLY...THEN BOOMED OUT THE HOUR. ONE O'CLOCK...AND ALL WAS NOT WELL. SUDDENLY--LIKE A DRENCHING TIDAL WAVE--A SENSE OF DISASTER SWEPT OVER ME. MY HEART THROBBED AND PERSPIRATION BEADED MY UPPER LIP...THEN I HEARD FOOTSTEPS OUTSIDE, RUNNING UP THE STAIRS.

SEE, HERE HE COMES NOW. HE'S ONLY A HALF-HOUR LATE...AND WHAT'S A HALF-HOUR TO TWO PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING TO SPEND THE REST OF THEIR LIVES TOGETHER?

JEFF. I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? WHERE'S BOYD?

MYRA, BRACE YOURSELF, MY DEAR...I HAVE BAD NEWS FOR YOU. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY IT...HOW TO TELL YOU. MYRA, YOU MUST BE BRAVE.

MY HEART WENT COLD...TERROR SWEPT MY SOUL AND A VOICE DEEP IN MY CONSCIOUSNESS SCREAMED, NO. NO. BUT I KNEW. SOMETHING TOLD ME THAT BOYD WAS...DEAD.

BOYD...HE'S BEEN HURT...HE'S...DEAD.

IT WAS AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT...HE WAS ON HIS WAY HERE. THEY SAID HE NEVER KNEW WHAT STRUCK HIM...NO PAIN...HE...

BUT I HEARD NO MORE. THE CLOCK TICKED AND BOOMED SENSELESSLY AND MERGED WITH INFINITY AS THE EARTH SPUN LIKE A HUGE WHIRLPOOL INTO WHICH I PLUNGED...DOWN INTO A VORTEX...INTO THE EMPTINESS OF A SHATTERED HEART.

SHE'S FAINTED. QUICK. GET SOMETHING...WATER...

THEN BEGAN A TIME OF NOTHINGNESS FOR ME. BOYD WAS GONE...GONE BEHIND THE IMPENETRABLE WALL CALLED DEATH, AND WITHOUT HIM MY LIFE HAD NO PURPOSE, NO AIM. IT WAS AS THOUGH MY LIFE HAD GONE WITH HIM...I WAS BUT AN EMPTY SHELL CAST ADRIFT IN A WORLD OF GLOOM AND DEPRESSION.

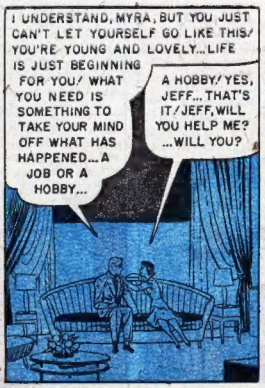
MYRA, IT'S ME--JEFF. I'VE BEEN KNOCKING BUT YOU DIDN'T ANSWER. MAY I COME IN?

COME IN, JEFF.

DARLING, YOU DON'T LOOK WELL. MYRA, YOU MUST SNAP OUT OF IT. I REALIZE WHAT A BLOW YOU'VE SUFFERED, BUT I'M SURE BOYD WOULDN'T WANT IT TO BE LIKE THIS.

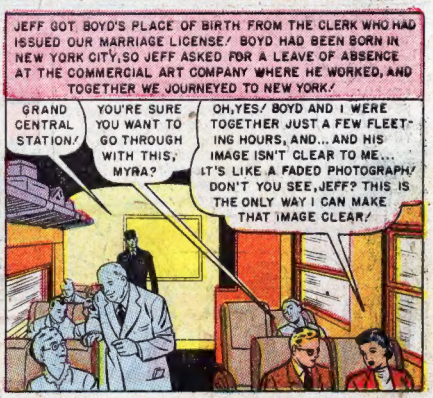
OH, JEFF, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. WE'D KNOWN EACH OTHER SUCH A SHORT TIME.

YOU SEE, JEFF, I REALLY KNEW NOTHING ABOUT BOYD; HIS PAST, WHAT HE WAS LIKE WHEN HE WAS YOUNGER... THE SORT OF THINGS THAT I KNOW ABOUT YOU./ I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE HE WORKED ...WHAT HIS BUSINESS WAS./ ALL WE HAD WAS OUR FUTURE TOGETHER, AND NOW...THERE IS NO FUTURE TOGETHER./


I UNDERSTAND, MYRA, BUT YOU JUST CAN'T LET YOURSELF GO LIKE THIS./ YOU'RE YOUNG AND LOVELY...LIFE IS JUST BEGINNING FOR YOU./ WHAT YOU NEED IS SOMETHING TO TAKE YOUR MIND OFF WHAT HAS HAPPENED... A JOB OR A HOBBY...
A HOBBY./ YES, JEFF... THAT'S IT./ JEFF, WILL YOU HELP ME? ...WILL YOU?

OF COURSE I WILL./ I CAN SEE YOU HAVE SOMETHING IN MIND... WHAT IS IT, MYRA?
JEFF, I WANT TO FIND OUT ALL I CAN ABOUT BOYD... THE THINGS HE'S DONE...WHAT HE WAS...WHERE HE CAME FROM... EVERYTHING./ THEN AT LEAST I'LL HAVE THAT./ I'LL KNOW BOYD AS I WOULD HAVE KNOWN HIM IF...IF DEATH HADN'T TAKEN HIM AWAY FROM ME./ PLEASE, JEFF, HELP ME... IT WILL GIVE ME SOMETHING TO LIVE FOR./

FROM THAT MOMENT I BEGAN TO LIVE AGAIN./ I HAD A PURPOSE IN LIFE... A REASON FOR LIVING, A WHOLE-HEARTED INTEREST THAT WOULD BRING ME CLOSER TO THE MAN I LOVED AND HAD LOST TO ETERNITY./
I'D HELP YOU DO ANYTHING THAT WILL PUT THE ROSES BACK INTO YOUR CHEEKS./ WHEN DO YOU WANT TO START THIS SEARCH INTO THE PAST?
NOW./ RIGHT NOW./


JEFF GOT BOYD'S PLACE OF BIRTH FROM THE CLERK WHO HAD ISSUED OUR MARRIAGE LICENSE./ BOYD HAD BEEN BORN IN NEW YORK CITY, SO JEFF ASKED FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE AT THE COMMERCIAL ART COMPANY WHERE HE WORKED, AND TOGETHER WE JOURNEYED TO NEW YORK./
GRAND CENTRAL STATION./
YOU'RE SURE YOU WANT TO GO THROUGH WITH THIS, MYRA?
OH, YES./ BOYD AND I WERE TOGETHER JUST A FEW FLEETING HOURS, AND... AND HIS IMAGE ISN'T CLEAR TO ME... IT'S LIKE A FADED PHOTOGRAPH./ DON'T YOU SEE, JEFF? THIS IS THE ONLY WAY I CAN MAKE THAT IMAGE CLEAR./

SO WE STARTED OUR SEARCH ON THE EAST SIDE WHERE BOYD HAD BEEN BORN./
SURE, I REMEMBER THE MALCOME FAMILY./ I BEEN JANITOR HERE FOR FORTY YEARS./ THAT BOYD MALCOME WAS A YOUNG HOODLUM...WAS SENT TO REFORM SCHOOL WHEN HE WAS THIRTEEN./ RAN WITH A BAD CROWD, HE DID./ THE OLD FOLKS DIED WHILE HE WAS IN REFORM SCHOOL./ DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM AFTER THAT./
THANKS, WE'LL TAKE IT FROM THERE./

DO YOU WANT TO GO ON, MYRA?
OF COURSE./ LOTS OF YOUNGSTERS MAKE MISTAKES./ BOYD, A LITTLE RAGAMUFFIN BAD BOY--IT SEEMS SO OUT OF CHARACTER! WE MUST GO ON... I WANT TO KNOW WHAT INFLUENCED HIM...WHAT CHANGED HIM INTO THE CHARMING GENTLEMAN THAT I FELL IN LOVE WITH./ LET'S GO TO THE REFORM SCHOOL./

WE WENT TO THE REFORM SCHOOL, AND AS WE WALKED DOWN THE CORRIDOR TO THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE, MY HEART WENT OUT TO THE YOUNG BEWILDERED BOYD WHO MUST HAVE WALKED THIS SAME CORRIDOR SO MANY YEARS AGO/

MISS PHILLIPS AND MR. SAUNDERS, I ASSUME? AFTER I RECEIVED YOUR CALL, I TOOK YOUNG BOYD MALCOME'S HISTORY FROM THE FILES TO REFRESH MY MEMORY/ YES, I BELIEVE I CAN TELL YOU A GOOD DEAL ABOUT THAT YOUNG MAN/

WE SAT AND LISTENED AS THE SUPERINTENDENT TOLD US A SORDID STORY OF AN INCORRIGIBLE WHO LIED AND STOLE AND, WITH A KNOWLEDGE FAR BEYOND HIS TENDER YEARS, USED ANY MEANS TO EXTORT FROM THE WORLD AND HIS COMPANIONS WHATEVER WAS NECESSARY TO GIVE HIM THE THINGS HE WANTED/

YES, HE WAS SMART AND TRICKY AND HAD NO MORE CONSCIENCE THAN A SNAKE/ AFTER HE LEFT HERE, WE KEPT TRACK OF HIM FOR A WHILE/ HE HAD NO VISIBLE MEANS OF SUPPORT YET, HE LIVED WELL/ HERE--LET ME GIVE YOU THE NAME OF A MAN WHOM HE KNEW WELL AT THAT TIME/ HE MAY BE ABLE TO TELL YOU MORE/

WE LEFT THE REFORM SCHOOL AND HAILED A CAB TO TAKE US TO THE ADDRESS OF THE MAN BOYD HAD KNOWN/ PERHAPS THIS WAS THE PERSON WHO HAD INFLUENCED HIM FOR THE BETTER/

LOOK, MYRA, LET'S CALL THE WHOLE THING OFF/

NO/ SOMEWHERE SOMETHING CHANGED HIM, AND I'M DETERMINED... I MUST FIND OUT WHAT IT WAS/ I MUST FIND THE BOYD I KNEW/ THIS OTHER PERSON WE'VE HEARD ABOUT... THAT WASN'T BOYD...THAT WASN'T THE MAN TO WHOM I GAVE MY LOVE/

HERE Y'ARE-- 242 SOUTH TENTH STREET/

BUT THIS IS A POOL ROOM/

WAIT HERE, MYRA, I'LL SEE IF I CAN LOCATE OUR MAN/ THIS IS NO PLACE FOR YOU/

POOL

BILLIARD

I WATCHED JEFF GET OUT OF THE CAB AND ENTER THE GRIMY POOL PARLOR/ A FEW MINUTES LATER HE RETURNED WITH A BLOATED, UNTIDY, FAT MAN/

THIS IS THE MAN, MYRA/ THOMAS Mc GUIRE/

SO YOU WANTA KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT BOYD MALCOME, HUH? WELL, I KIN GIVE YA AN EARFUL/ I WAS RUNNIN' A NUMBERS RACKET, SEE, AN' DOIN' OKAY/ THEN ONE DAY HE COMES IN, A PUNK KID, SEE, AN' SAYS HE'S TAKIN' OVER/ I LAUGHED AT HIM... I SHOULDA KNOWN BETTER...A MAN DON'T LAUGH AT A POISON SNAKE NO MATTER HOW YOUNG IT IS/

HE STARTED HIS OWN NUMBERS AN' TOOK OVER MY TERRITORY/ THEN THERE WAS A KILLIN' AN' THE NEXT THING I KNEW, HE HAD ME FRAMED FOR IT/ I DID TWELVE YEARS FOR THAT LUG, AN'...

THANK YOU, MISTER McGUIRE-- THAT'S ALL I WANT TO KNOW/ DO YOU KNOW OF ANYONE ELSE WHO KNEW HIM AFTER YOU?

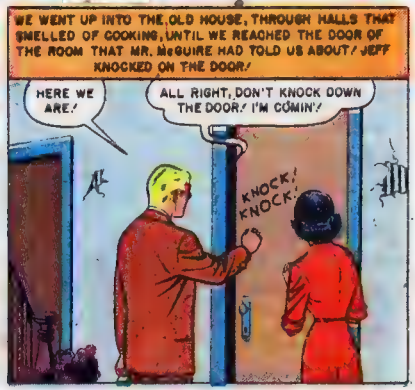
SURE/ HERE-- GO TO THIS ADDRESS AN' ASK FOR JOSEPHINE/ SHE KNEW HIM REAL WELL/

THANK YOU/ READY, JEFF?

TAKE US TO BROOKLYN, DRIVER! HERE'S THE ADDRESS!
SURE THING, MISTER!

ON THE LONG RIDE TO BROOKLYN I DIDN'T SAY A WORD... I COULDN'T--MY HEART WAS TOO FULL OF SADNESS AND DESPAIR! I WASN'T QUITE SURE WHAT WAS IN MY HEART... BUT I HAD ONE HOPE TO CLING TO, AND THAT WAS THE DESPERATE HOPE THAT I WOULD FIND A THING...A WORD... A TURNING POINT IN BOYD MALCOME'S LIFE!

HERE WE ARE, FOLKS! THE ANCESTRAL HOME OF THE DODGERS!
WAIT FOR US, DRIVER! I DON'T THINK WE'LL BE TOO LONG! C'MON, MYRA!


WE WENT UP INTO THE OLD HOUSE, THROUGH HALLS THAT SMELLED OF COOKING, UNTIL WE REACHED THE DOOR OF THE ROOM THAT MR. McGUIRE HAD TOLD US ABOUT! JEFF KNOCKED ON THE DOOR!
HERE WE ARE!
ALL RIGHT, DON'T KNOCK DOWN THE DOOR! I'M COMIN'!
KNOCK! KNOCK!

THEN THE DOOR SWUNG WIDE AND A WOMAN STOOD IN THE OPENING... MY HEART SANK AS I SAW HER--WHAT COULD SHE TELL US ABOUT BOYD???
YES? WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
WE'RE LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ABOUT A MAN NAMED BOYD MALCOME!

INFORMATION? WHAT'S HE DONE NOW? BUT COME IN, COME IN! IF YOU WANT INFORMATION, I'M THE GIRL THAT CAN GIVE IT TO YOU!
... ARE YOU A RELATIVE?

I ASKED HER THE QUESTION... I DON'T KNOW WHY... I WAS AFRAID OF THE ANSWER!
RELATIVE? WELL, YES, YOU MIGHT CALL IT THAT! I'M HIS WIFE! WE WERE MARRIED RIGHT BEFORE THE WAR AND HE LEFT ME RIGHT AFTER THE WAR!

AT LAST A SPARK OF LIGHT HAD COME IN THE ENVELOPING DARKNESS./ MY BEATEN HEART TOOK COURAGE...THE WAR...THAT WAS WHAT HAD CHANGED HIM INTO THE MAN I HAD KNOWN...

HE CHANGED HIS NAME AND WE TRAVELED FROM PILLAR TO POST, FROM TOWN TO TOWN, ALWAYS ONE JUMP AHEAD OF THE DRAFT BOARD./ WHEN THEY CAUGHT UP WITH HIM, HE WAS ALL PREPARED...HE HAD BRIBED A CROOKED DOCTOR TO FAKE PAPERS SHOWING THAT HE HAD A BAD HEART./

ARE YOU SURE THAT... I MEAN... COULD THERE BE ANOTHER BOYD MALCOME?

ANOTHER ONE? LORD HELP US, SISTER, I HOPE NOT./ ONE BOYD MALCOME IS JUST ABOUT ALL THIS LITTLE OLD WORLD COULD STAND AT ONE TIME./

WHERE DID HE GO AFTER HE... AFTER... I MEAN...

YOU MEAN AFTER HE LEFT ME? HE WENT TO A TOWN CALLED NEW STANFORD AFTER HE HAD SPENT ALL MY MONEY./ THAT'S THE LAST I WANT TO HEAR ABOUT HIM./ ALL I WANT FROM HIM IS A DIVORCE./

SAY, YOU'RE NOT LEAVING ALREADY?

YES, WE MUST GO NOW./ THANK YOU FOR THE INFORMATION./

NEW STANFORD, THE WOMAN, HIS WIFE, HAD SAID./ THAT WAS WHERE WE HAD MET...AND WHERE I HAD STARTED MY SEARCH INTO THE PAST./ MY HEART CLUTCHED AT STRAWS ...PERHAPS THE WOMAN WAS LYING... SHE MUST HAVE BEEN./ THIS VICIOUS PERSON WHOSE SORDID LIFE WE HAD BEEN UNEARTHING, THIS COULDN'T BE BOYD MALCOME... NOT *MY* BOYD./

TAKE US BACK TO 42ND STREET./

I THINK YOU'VE HEARD ENOUGH, MYRA./ IT'S TERRIBLE THAT IT SHOULD TURN OUT LIKE THIS... TERRIBLE FOR YOU, MY DEAR./

NO, JEFF, I'LL SEE THIS THROUGH TO THE END./ WHEN WE GET BACK TO NEW STANFORD, I'M GOING TO THE IDLE HOUR CLUB...THERE'S STILL A CHANCE...A CHANCE THAT SOMETHING HAPPENED TO CHANGE HIM, OR... OH, JEFF, I'M ALL MIXED UP./ THIS...THIS TRIP...I THOUGHT OF IT AS A SORT OF PILGRIMAGE, BUT INSTEAD IT...IT'S A NIGHTMARE./ OH, JEFF./

WE CAUGHT A TRAIN BACK TO NEW STANFORD, ARRIVING AN HOUR LATER./ I WAS GLAD IT DIDN'T TAKE TOO LONG./ I THOUGHT MY BRAIN WOULD CRACK./ EVERY TURN OF THE WHEEL, EVERY TINY SOUND SHOUTED... BOYD, BOYD... MURDER, MURDER...WIFE, WIFE... SNAKE, SNAKE... BOYD, BOYD...UNTIL I WANTED TO SCREAM...STOP./ STOP./ ONLY JEFF'S COMFORTING PRESENCE KEPT ME FROM GOING MAD!

NEW STANFORD./

JEFF, I DON'T THINK I COULD HAVE STOOD IT ONE MOMENT MORE./

IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW--WE'RE HOME AGAIN./

YOU GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP, MYRA, AND IN THE MORNING...

NO, I'M GOING TO THE IDLE HOUR CLUB./ I MUST KNOW IT ALL... I COULDN'T SLEEP... I MUST KNOW./

NEW STANFORD

JEFF CAME ALONG AS I KNEW HE WOULD, HIS BROW WRINKLED WITH WORRY, HIS LIPS TIGHT WITH FEAR...FEAR FOR ME! AS ALWAYS, HE THOUGHT OF ME FIRST!

JUST A MINUTE, BUD, WHERE DO YOU AND THE DOLL THINK YOU'RE GOING?

WE WANT TO SEE THE MANAGER!

YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE!

SORRY, FRIEND, I'M ALREADY IN! COME ON, MYRA!

WHAT IS THIS?

THIS WISE GUY BUSTED RIGHT IN ...SAYS HE WANTS TO SEE YOU! SHOULD I THROW HIM OUT?

WE JUST WANT TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS!

PLEASE, WE WON'T TAKE UP MUCH OF YOUR TIME!

OKAY, SISTER! BEAT IT, MONK!

WE WANTED TO ASK YOU IF YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT BOYD MALCOME!

SAY, I REMEMBER YOU! YOU'RE THE BABE THAT WAS WITH HIM THOSE NIGHTS HE HIT MY TABLE SO HARD! SURE, HE TOLD ME ALL ABOUT YOU...HE CALLED YOU HIS LUCKY DOLL! HE WAS A GAMBLER, Y'KNOW!... SUPERSTITIOUS LIKE ALL GAMBLERS! HE SAID TO ME, "TONY, I'M GONNA HANG ONTO THIS BABE--SHE'S MY LUCK! I'LL EVEN MARRY HER, BUT I GOTTA HANG ONTO HER OR I'LL LOSE MY LUCK!"

TOO BAD HIS LUCK DIDN'T HOLD OUT IN THAT ACCIDENT, BUT IT'S PROBABLY LUCKY FOR YOU...ONCE HE BEGAN TO LOSE AGAIN, HE'D HAVE LEFT YOU IN A MINUTE! THE GUY HAD A LOTTA CHARM...THE WOMEN ALL FELL FOR IT! SAY, I COULD TELL YOU SOME... HEY, WHERE YOU GOIN'? I AIN'T THROUGH YET!

THAT WAS IT...THAT WAS THE END! THE IMAGE WAS QUITE CLEAR NOW...AN IMAGE OF A MAN, LOW, SORDID, WITH NOT ONE REDEEMING FEATURE...THE IMAGE OF THE MAN WHO HAD HELD ME, KISSED ME... TO WHOM I HAD GIVEN MY LOVE!

PLEASE, MYRA, DON'T CRY--HE WASN'T WORTH IT! I'M SO SORRY...I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY...

I WON'T CRY--I'M BEYOND THAT NOW! TAKE ME HOME, JEFF!

JEFF TOOK ME HOME AND BADE ME AN ANXIOUS GOOD NIGHT! I UNDRESSED AND WENT TO BED! I WAS EXHAUSTED, PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY! I THOUGHT OF BOYD...THE BOYD I KNEW...AND I THOUGHT OF THE BOYD THAT HAD BEEN SHOWN TO ME THIS DAY...AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE TWO IMAGES MERGED AND BECAME ONE! I GOT OUT OF BED AND TOOK HIS PICTURE FROM MY BUREAU AND...

THERE, BOYD MALCOME! YOU TOOK MY LOVE AND...AND...YOU DECEIVED ME, YOU MADE ME LOVE YOU... THE THOUGHT OF IT MAKES ME FEEL... ASHAMED!

I REMEMBER THE BITTER TEARS, THE ROOM SWAYING AND LURCHING... I REMEMBER CALLING... CALLING A NAME... THEN I PLUNGED DOWNWARD INTO A DEEP NIGHTMARE POOL OF TERRIBLE CONFUSION AND RACKING PAIN.

JEFF! JEFF!

I AWOKE IN THE HOSPITAL. A NURSE CAME AND TOLD ME I HAD BEEN VERY ILL FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. THEN A DOCTOR CAME AND SAID SOME CHEERFUL WORDS, AND I SLEPT... AND WHEN I AWAKENED, JEFF WAS THERE BESIDE ME.

JEFF!

MYRA, MY DEAR, IT'S ALL OVER NOW. YOU'RE GOING TO BE WELL AND OUT OF HERE IN A FEW WEEKS.

JEFF WAS A GOOD PROPHET. MY STRENGTH SLOWLY RETURNED AND I LEFT THE HOSPITAL. JEFF AND I TOOK LONG WALKS IN THE SUNSHINE AND GRADUALLY THE GLOOM THAT SHADOWED MY HEART LIFTED.

REMEMBER THE NIGHT WE CAME HERE AFTER THE JUNIOR PROM, AND YOU TOOK OFF YOUR SHOES AND WADED BECAUSE YOUR FEET HURT SO MUCH FROM DANCING?

YES, AND YOU TRIED TO GET ME THE LILY ON THE PAD AND FELL INTO THE WATER. YOU LOOKED LIKE A HALF-DROWNED PUPPY WHEN YOU CAME OUT.

WE SURE HAD SOME SWELL TIMES TOGETHER, DIDN'T WE, MYRA DEAREST?

YES, JEFF...

JEFF PUT HIS HANDS ON MY SHOULDERS AND LOOKED INTO MY EYES. I LOOKED INTO HIS FACE, SO SWEETLY SERIOUS, AND I KNEW THEN THAT I LOVED HIM. I REALIZED NOW THAT WHAT I HAD FELT FOR BOYD WAS A SHALLOW THING... AS SHALLOW AS BOYD HIMSELF HAD BEEN.

MYRA, CAN THINGS EVER BE AS THEY WERE BEFORE... HIM? I MEAN BETWEEN US? I LOVE YOU SO MUCH, MYRA... I'VE NEVER STOPPED LOVING YOU. I MEAN...

DON'T TALK, JEFF... KISS ME, PLEASE.

HE KISSED ME, AND WITH HIS KISS, HIS SWEET WONDERFUL KISS, HE CURED ME... CURED ME OF THE SORDIDNESS THAT HAD SEEMED TO CLING TO ME... AND I FELT CURED AGAIN, WORTHY OF HIS LOVE.

DON'T EVER LEAVE ME AGAIN, MY DARLING. STAY WITH ME ALWAYS.

I NEVER DID LEAVE YOU, MY DEAR. I KNOW THAT NOW. I TOOK A SIDE ROAD ONCE, BUT IT ENDED IN MUD AND DIRT. THEN MY HEART PUT ME ON THE RIGHT ROAD AGAIN AND I'LL NEVER LEAVE IT... NEVER, MY LOVE.

THE END

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☐ Enclosed find $3.98. Send POSTPAID.

NAME.....

STREET.....

CITY.....ZONE.....STATE.....
(PLEASE PRINT)

SO THE WEEKS PASSED AND I BECAME MORE LONELY THAN EVER./ I ONLY SAW SAM AT MEALTIMES AND THEN HE SCARCELY SPOKE TO ME./ I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND HIS ATTITUDE./

SAM, WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME? I'M ALWAYS ALONE, SAM... I'VE ALWAYS BEEN LONELY... ALL MY LIFE I'VE BEEN LONELY./ I THOUGHT WHEN I CAME OUT HERE AND WE WERE MARRIED, I WOULDN'T BE LONELY ANY MORE./ SAM, WHAT'S THE MATT BETWEEN US?

"I HATE MY HUSBAND!"

BASED ON A TRUE STORY./

IT SOUNDS HORRIBLE, I KNOW... BUT I THOUGHT I HAD A GOOD REASON TO UTTER THOSE WORDS, THAT IS, UNTIL...

GET UP THERE AND SING, Y'HEAR? THIS IS A CHANCE TO MAKE A FEW BUCKS FOR BOTH OF US! G'WAN-- GET UP THERE AND SING./

PLEASE DON'T! YOU'RE HURTING ME./ I'LL SING/

I WALKED TOWARD THE PLATFORM WITH RELUCTANT FEET-- MY HEART AND SOUL DRAGGING IN THE SAWDUST-- AND AS I WALKED, MY THOUGHTS WENT BACK TO THE PAST... BACK TO THE LONELY HOMESTEAD ON CHRISTMAS CREEK./

AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER I HAD ALWAYS BEEN LONELY./ HERE IN THIS LITTLE CABIN SO FAR FROM NOWHERE... JUST MY FATHER AND ME TOGETHER! I WAS LONELY... TERRIBLY LONELY/

MARION, HELP ME INTO THE HOUSE... I DON'T FEEL GOOD./ SOON'S I STARTED BACK FROM TOWN I BEGAN TO FEEL SICK./

I HELPED FATHER INTO THE CABIN./ HE WAS BURNING UP WITH FEVER./

I'LL GET THE DOCTOR AT CHRISTMAS CREEK./

NO./ WE GOT NO MONEY-- YOU K'N TAKE CARE OF ME./

I PUT SOME WATER ON THE STOVE TO HEAT FOR COFFEE./ WHEN THE COFFEE WAS DONE, I TOOK A CUP TO PAW./

HERE'S SOME HOT COFFEE, PAW./ I'LL... PAW, PAW... OH, PAW./...

I SAT ALONE IN THE DOORWAY OF THE CABIN... MORE ALONE NOW THAN EVER... WITH THE ONLY HUMAN DEAR TO ME LYING DEAD IN THE CABIN./

OH, PAW, PAW... WHAT'LL I DO NOW... WHAT'LL I DO?

I BURIED PAW UNDER THE WILLOW TREE NEAR THE STREAM./ THEN I WENT BACK TO THE EMPTY CABIN/ MY EYES LIGHTED ON THE NEWSPAPERS THAT PAW HAD BROUGHT BACK FROM TOWN/

I'LL LOOK OVER THE PAPER./ MAYBE THAT WILL QUIET MY MIND SO THAT I CAN THINK... FIGURE THINGS OUT./

WHAT'S THIS? AN ADVERTISEMENT... A WAY OUT... OUT OF THE LONELINESS./

wk. comm., trans. and drawing account furn. 2061 Whiteway, Rm.1046

I HAVE A nice homestead and want to marry a young, strong girl who will work with me on my homestead. I am 30 years old and healthy. Write to Sam Haverill, care of Willow City Post Office, Willow City, Wyoming.

YOUNG LADY, free to travel; Calif., Fla., under 25, train in civc. sales work. Apply between 3pm

I WROTE TO SAM HAVERILL AND WAITED FOR HIS REPLY./ THEN ONE DAY IT CAME, AND WITH THE LETTER WAS MY FARE TO WILLOW CITY, WYOMING./

HOPE IT'S GOOD NEWS, MISS MARION./

I THINK IT IS./ ANYWAY, I HOPE IT IS./

U.S. MAIL

ON THE LONG DUSTY RIDE I HAD MY DREAMS AS ANY YOUNG GIRL WOULD HAVE./ I TRIED TO PICTURE WHAT SAM HAVERILL WOULD LOOK LIKE, BUT OF COURSE I COULDN'T./

?

?

?

?

THEN THE TRAIN PULLED IN TO WILLOW CITY, WYOMING/ MY HEART BOUNDED IN MY THROAT...SUPPOSE HE DIDN'T LIKE ME/ BUT HE MUST...I COULDN'T STAND THE LONELINESS ANY LONGER/
I'LL SEE HIM SOON/ I HOPE HE'S NOT UGLY, OR...GOLLY, I'M SCARED/

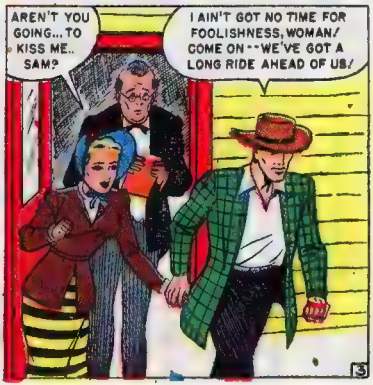
YOU MUST BE MARION/
YES...YES/ YOU'RE SAM HAVERILL?

HE WAS TALL AND STRONG AND STERN/ I THOUGHT THAT IF HE WOULD SMILE IT WOULD LIGHT UP HIS WHOLE FACE...BUT HE DIDN'T LOOK LIKE A SMILING MAN/
YOU'RE PRETTY/ I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT/ I HOPE YOU'RE A GOOD WORKER/
OH, I AM/ I'M STRONGER THAN I LOOK/

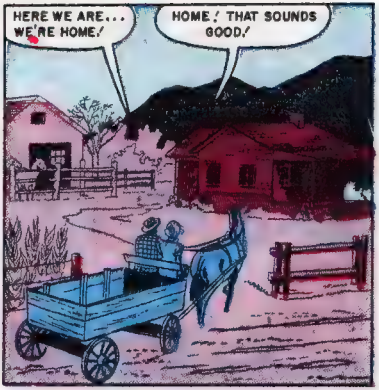
HE DIDN'T SEEM A TALKATIVE MAN SO I KEPT QUIET AND FOLLOWED HIM...EVEN THOUGH I WAS BURSTING TO ASK QUESTIONS...ABOUT THE HOMESTEAD AND THINGS/
WELL, LET'S GET ON WITH IT/ THE PREACHER'S WAITIN' IN THE HOTEL PARLOR/

HERE SHE IS/ MAKE IT FAST -- I'VE GOT CHORES TO DO AN' A LONG RIDE BACK TO MY HOMESTEAD/
SURE, SAM... SURE/ HOLD HANDS/

SAM TOOK MY HAND IN HIS BIG CALLOUSED ONE...THE PREACHER SAID A FEW WORDS AND...
I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU MAN AND WIFE/ THAT'S ALL, FOLKS/
GOOD/ WE'LL GET HOME BEFORE DARK/

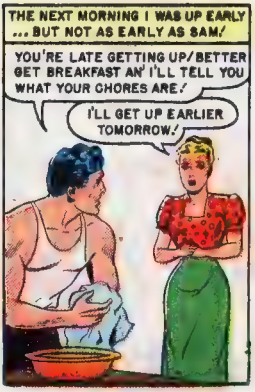

AREN'T YOU GOING...TO KISS ME.. SAM?
I AIN'T GOT NO TIME FOR FOOLISHNESS, WOMAN/ COME ON -- WE'VE GOT A LONG RIDE AHEAD OF US/

THAT WAS MY WEDDING--MY WEDDING TO SAM HAVERILL./ DRIVING THE LONG ROAD TOWARD OUR HOMESTEAD, SAM SCARCELY SAID A WORD EXCEPT TO POINT OUT LANDMARKS ON OUR WAY./
THAT THERE IS CHIMNEY ROCK./ WE'LL BE HOME SOON./


HERE WE ARE... WE'RE HOME./
HOME./ THAT SOUNDS GOOD./

THAT'LL BE YOUR ROOM... I'LL SLEEP OUT HERE/ YOU BETTER GET TO BED... YOU'VE HAD A LONG TRIP AN' THERE'S LOTS OF WORK TO DO TOMORROW./
GOOD NIGHT./

HE SEEMED TO DESPISE ME/ I WENT TO BED AND THE TEARS CAME, HOT AND BITTER, AND WITH THE TEARS THE LONELINESS RETURNED./


THE NEXT MORNING I WAS UP EARLY ... BUT NOT AS EARLY AS SAM./
YOU'RE LATE GETTING UP/ BETTER GET BREAKFAST AN' I'LL TELL YOU WHAT YOUR CHORES ARE./
I'LL GET UP EARLIER TOMORROW./

YOU'LL TAKE CARE OF THE COOKING AN' THE HOUSE AN' THE MENDING...YOU'LL MILK THE COWS AN' TAKE CARE OF THE STOCK AN' HELP ME AT HARVEST TIME/ I SHOULD BE ABLE TO SHOW A PROFIT FROM THE HOMESTEAD THIS YEAR, WITH YOU TO HELP./
I GUESS I WON'T BE IDLE./

SAM, I... WANT TO... SAM, DON'T YOU LIKE ME AT ALL? YOU SAID I WAS PRETTY AND I...
I'VE GOT NO TIME TO TALK NOW... I'VE GOT WORK TO DO./

SO THE WEEKS PASSED AND I BECAME MORE LONELY THAN EVER./ I ONLY SAW SAM AT MEALTIMES AND THEN HE SCARCELY SPOKE TO ME./ I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND HIS ATTITUDE./

SAM, WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME? I'M ALWAYS ALONE, SAM... I'VE ALWAYS BEEN LONELY... ALL MY LIFE I'VE BEEN LONELY./ I THOUGHT WHEN I CAME OUT HERE AND WE WERE MARRIED, I WOULDN'T BE LONELY ANY MORE./ SAM, WHAT'S THE MATTER BETWEEN US?

AIN'T GOT NO TIME FOR FOOLISH TALK--GOT TO DO THE CHORES./

WAIT, SAM./ I MUST HAVE AN ANSWER... I CAN'T STAND THIS ANY LONGER./

...ALL RIGHT, I'LL TELL YOU./ I HAD A NICE RANCH ONCE, ON THE PECOS./ THEN I MET A GIRL... WELL, WHEN SHE GOT THROUGH WITH ME--SHE AND MY RANCH AND ALL MY MONEY WERE GONE./

BUT WHAT HAS THAT TO DO WITH ME?

THIS./ SINCE THAT TIME I'VE HATED WOMEN... ALL WOMEN./

THEN WHY DID YOU ADVERTISE... WHY DID YOU MARRY ME?

BECAUSE I NEED HELP HERE AN' I'VE GOT NO MONEY TO HIRE HELP./ SURE, I MARRIED YOU, BUT TO ME YOU'RE NO DIFFERENT THAN HIRED HELP... EXCEPT THAT YOU'RE MY WIFE SO YOU HAVE TO WORK FOR NOTHING! THAT'S ALL--AN' NOW YOU KNOW./

YES, NOW I KNOW./

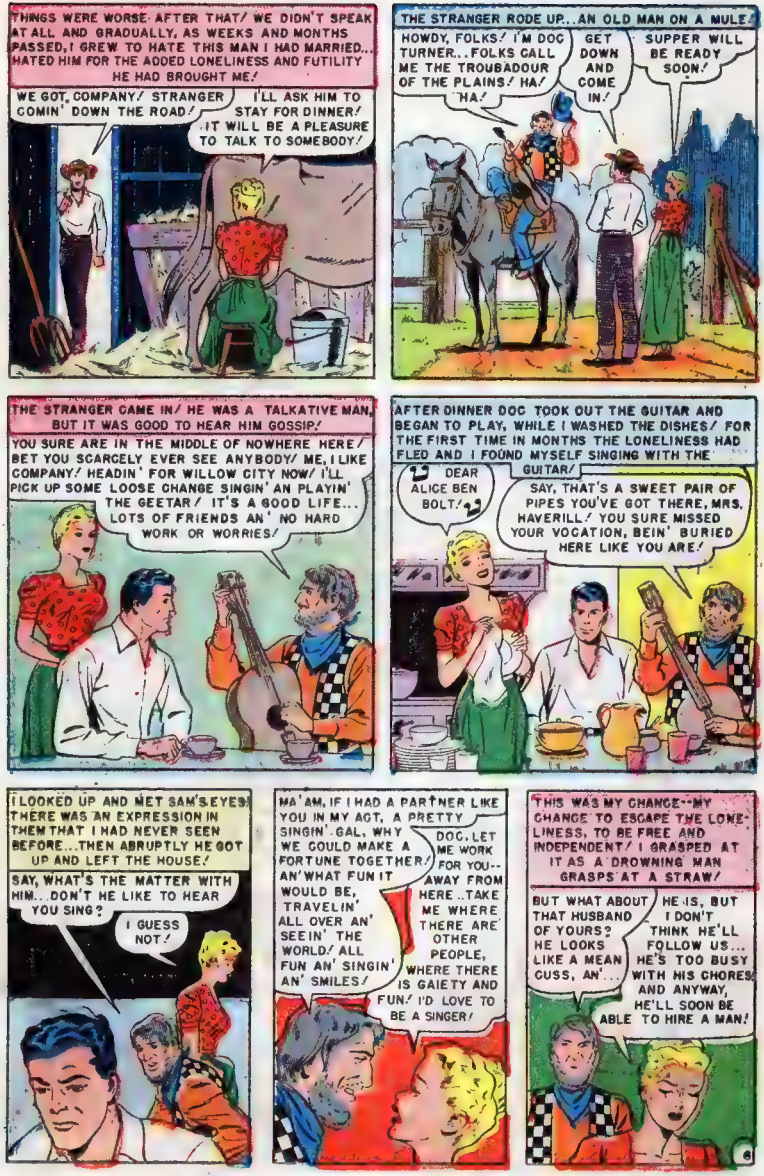
HE WENT OUT THEN, BACK TO HIS EVERLASTING CHORES./ THIS WAS MY MARRIAGE, A DRUDGE ON A HOMESTEAD... I WOULD GROW OLD HERE WITH THIS MAN--AND ALWAYS I WOULD BE LONELY BECAUSE THERE WAS NO PLACE FOR ME TO GO./

I'LL DIE HERE... LONELIER THAN I'VE EVER BEEN BEFORE--AND I HOPED FOR SO MUCH ..SO MUCH./

THEN I FELT A TOUCH AT MY ELBOW... IT WAS SAM./ HE STOOD THERE, AWKWARDLY TWISTING HIS HAT IN HIS HANDS./

MARION, I'M SORRY FOR WHAT I SAID... I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU./ I...

DON'T WORRY, SAM... I'LL STILL SLAVE FOR YOU... I KNOW THAT'S WHAT'S WORRYING YOU./ BUT YOU CAN STOP WORRYING... I'LL STICK IT OUT BECAUSE I HAVEN'T ANY OTHER PLACE TO GO./ FROM NOW ON IT WOULD BE BEST IF YOU DIDN'T SPEAK TO ME AT ALL--YOU CAN JUST GIVE ME ORDERS LIKE ANY OTHER HIRED HAND./


THINGS WERE WORSE AFTER THAT/ WE DIDN'T SPEAK AT ALL AND GRADUALLY, AS WEEKS AND MONTHS PASSED, I GREW TO HATE THIS MAN I HAD MARRIED... HATED HIM FOR THE ADDED LONELINESS AND FUTILITY HE HAD BROUGHT ME/
WE GOT, COMPANY/ STRANGER COMIN' DOWN THE ROAD/
I'LL ASK HIM TO STAY FOR DINNER/ IT WILL BE A PLEASURE TO TALK TO SOMEBODY/
THE STRANGER RODE UP... AN OLD MAN ON A MULE/
HOWDY, FOLKS/ I'M DOC TURNER... FOLKS CALL ME THE TROUBADOUR OF THE PLAINS/ HA/ HA/
GET DOWN AND COME IN/
SUPPER WILL BE READY SOON/
THE STRANGER CAME IN/ HE WAS A TALKATIVE MAN, BUT IT WAS GOOD TO HEAR HIM GOSSIP/
YOU SURE ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE HERE/ BET YOU SCARCELY EVER SEE ANYBODY/ ME, I LIKE COMPANY/ HEADIN' FOR WILLOW CITY NOW/ I'LL PICK UP SOME LOOSE CHANGE SINGIN' AN PLAYIN' THE GEETAR/ IT'S A GOOD LIFE... LOTS OF FRIENDS AN' NO HARD WORK OR WORRIES/
AFTER DINNER DOC TOOK OUT THE GUITAR AND BEGAN TO PLAY, WHILE I WASHED THE DISHES/ FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MONTHS THE LONELINESS HAD FLED AND I FOUND MYSELF SINGING WITH THE GUITAR/
DEAR ALICE BEN BOLT/
SAY, THAT'S A SWEET PAIR OF PIPES YOU'VE GOT THERE, MRS. HAVERILL/ YOU SURE MISSED YOUR VOCATION, BEIN' BURIED HERE LIKE YOU ARE/
I LOOKED UP AND MET SAM'S EYES/ THERE WAS AN EXPRESSION IN THEM THAT I HAD NEVER SEEN BEFORE... THEN ABRUPTLY HE GOT UP AND LEFT THE HOUSE/
SAY, WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH HIM... DON'T HE LIKE TO HEAR YOU SING?
I GUESS NOT/
MA'AM, IF I HAD A PARTNER LIKE YOU IN MY ACT, A PRETTY SINGIN' GAL, WHY WE COULD MAKE A FORTUNE TOGETHER/ AN' WHAT FUN IT WOULD BE, TRAVELIN' ALL OVER AN' SEEIN' THE WORLD/ ALL FUN AN' SINGIN' AN' SMILES/
DOC, LET ME WORK FOR YOU-- AWAY FROM HERE... TAKE ME WHERE THERE ARE OTHER PEOPLE, WHERE THERE IS GAIETY AND FUN/ I'D LOVE TO BE A SINGER/
THIS WAS MY CHANCE--MY CHANCE TO ESCAPE THE LONELINESS, TO BE FREE AND INDEPENDENT/ I GRASPED AT IT AS A DROWNING MAN GRASPS AT A STRAW/
BUT WHAT ABOUT THAT HUSBAND OF YOURS? HE LOOKS LIKE A MEAN CUSS, AN'...
HE IS, BUT I DON'T THINK HE'LL FOLLOW US... HE'S TOO BUSY WITH HIS CHORES! AND ANYWAY, HE'LL SOON BE ABLE TO HIRE A MAN!

I PACKED MY FEW BELONGINGS AND STARTED AWAY WITH DOC TURNER...DOWN THE ROAD TO LIFE AND LAUGHTER./

WE'LL MAKE A HEAP OF DINERO./ A PRETTY GAL LIKE YOU, WITH YOUR VOICE AND MY GEETAR... HA./ HA./ WON'T WILLOW CITY BE SURPRISED./

HALFWAY TO WILLOW CITY I BEGAN TO FEEL SAD./ I COULDN'T FIGURE OUT WHY, BUT I KEPT THINKING OF SAM AND THE LITTLE HOMESTEAD, AND NOW THAT I WAS GOING AWAY FROM FROM IT, IT SEEMED AS THOUGH IT HADN'T BEEN SO LONELY./

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT WAS RIGHT TO DO THIS, DOC...RUN AWAY LIKE THIS AND LEAVE ALL THE CHORES AND...

LET THAT HUSKY MAN OF YOURS TAKE CARE OF THE CHORES./ 'SIDES, I WOULDN'T TAKE YOU BACK THERE NOW... THAT HUSBAND OF YOURS'D BE LIABLE TO TEAR MY HEAD OFF./

WE ARRIVED IN WILLOW CITY AFTER DARK--DOC TIED THE MULE TO A HITCHING POST AND I DISMOUNTED./

I SURE GOT A POWERFUL THIRST./ YOU WAIT HERE WHILST I WET MY WHISTLE-- THEN I'LL FIND YOU A ROOMING HOUSE./

I'LL WALK UP AND DOWN AND TAKE THE KINKS OUT OF MY BACK./

DOC VANISHED INTO THE SALOON AND I WAS LEFT ALONE WITH MY THOUGHTS... MY THOUGHTS OF SAM AND THE LOOK IN HIS EYES WHEN I WAS SINGING, AND OF OUR HOMESTEAD./ I DECIDED TO GO BACK./

C'MON, GAL, INTO THE SILVER PALACE AN' SING FOR THE BOYS./ IT'S A CHANCE FOR US TO GET A STAKE./

BUT...THAT'S A SALOON, DOC./ I'VE DECIDED TO GO BACK HOME./ DOC, PLEASE LET ME GO./

NO, YOU AIN'T GOIN' HOME...YOU'RE GOIN' TO SING FOR THESE GOOD PEOPLE AN' MAKE SOME MONEY FOR OL' DOC./ C'MON./

LET GO./ OH, SAM... SAM... WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN./

DOC'S FACE HAD CHANGED./ IT WAS CRUEL AND VICIOUS AS HE PUSHED ME TOWARD THE PLATFORM./ MY THOUGHTS FLEW BACK TO THE HOMESTEAD, AND I KNEW THAT I WAS LOST...I KNEW, TOO, THAT I LOVED SAM, AND IF I HAD STUCK I KNEW THAT SOMEDAY I WOULD HAVE WON HIS LOVE./

HEY./ SHE'S TOO PURTY TO SING./ HOW 'BOUT A DANCE, HONEY?/

DON'T./ LET ME GO./

YOU AN' ME ARE GOIN' TO BE RIGHT GOOD FRIENDS./

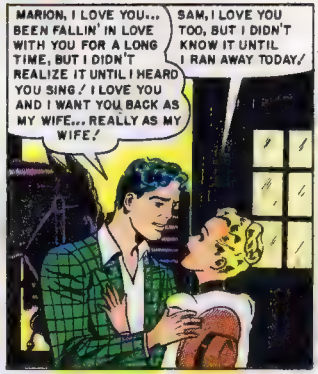
HAW./ HAW./ CHARLEY'S DONE GOT HISSELF A NEW GAL./

SHE'S A MIGHTY PURTY FILLY./

SUDDENLY HIS GRASPING CLAWS WERE GONE FROM ME AND I HEARD A TERRIBLE VOICE THUNDER...
TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF HER, YOU LOW-DOWN POLECAT!

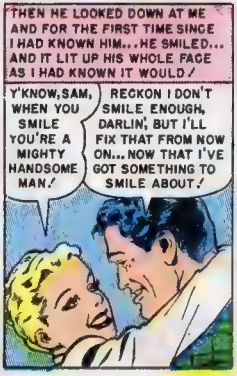
I OUGHT'TA BREAK YOUR NECK!
SAM! OH, SAM!
OWW!

C'MON, YOU'RE GOIN' HOME! YOU, DOG, IF YOU WERE MORE OF A MAN AND YOUNGER--I'D KILL YOU!
DON'T YOU TOUCH ME...I WAS ONLY...
OWWW!


MARION, I LOVE YOU... BEEN FALLIN' IN LOVE WITH YOU FOR A LONG TIME, BUT I DIDN'T REALIZE IT UNTIL I HEARD YOU SING! I LOVE YOU AND I WANT YOU BACK AS MY WIFE... REALLY AS MY WIFE!
SAM, I LOVE YOU TOO, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW IT UNTIL I RAN AWAY TODAY!

GET IN THE BUGGY--WE'RE GOIN' HOME!
WAIT, SAM! YOU...YOU STILL HAVEN'T KISSED ME!

HE SWEPT ME TO HIS CHEST IN A STRONG EMBRACE AND HE KISSED ME, STRONGLY, HUNGRILY, AND WITH HIS KISS THE LONELINESS VANISHED... THE LONELINESS THAT I HAD KNOWN ALL MY LIFE...AND I KNEW IT WOULD NEVER RETURN!


THEN HE LOOKED DOWN AT ME AND FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE I HAD KNOWN HIM...HE SMILED... AND IT LIT UP HIS WHOLE FACE AS I HAD KNOWN IT WOULD!
Y'KNOW, SAM, WHEN YOU SMILE YOU'RE A MIGHTY HANDSOME MAN!
RECKON I DON'T SMILE ENOUGH, DARLIN', BUT I'LL FIX THAT FROM NOW ON... NOW THAT I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SMILE ABOUT!

SO WE STARTED HOME...BACK TO OUR HOME...OUR HOME, THAT WOULD BE FILLED WITH HAPPINESS FROM NOW ON... OUR HOME, THAT WOULD NEVER BE LONELY AGAIN!
THE END

THE WRONG LOVE SONG

"YOUR daughter, Joy, will be the greatest concert pianist of her generation!" Hans Mandl exclaimed to my mother. I was only seven years old and didn't really understand his words, but something—the excitement in his voice, perhaps, or the delight on my mother's face—touched me then and started the fire of ambition that burned within me for twelve years.

Hans was a young man then, not yet thirty, and had just moved to our town to establish himself as a piano teacher. An injury to his hands had spoiled his own chances for fame, and he transferred all his dreams to me. He taught his other pupils conscientiously but without enthusiasm; but when I knocked on his studio door every afternoon after school, he hurried me to the piano and hovered there nervously as I played, his face lighting up at my playing or clouding over impatiently if I struck a wrong chord. He talked for hours, painting enchanting pictures of concerts in all the capitals of Europe, and as he talked I could hear the thunderous aplause and see the eager faces of a vast audience calling for more.

I had no time for play, and little time for school work. Always I was at Hans' studio, and after I finished high school and my mother died, I erased everything else from my life. When I sat at the piano and Hans' eyes rested upon me lovingly, all I saw in his gaze was his love of music. I knew of no other love for I knew no men, only Hans, whose hair was turning grey and whose shoulders were drooping with age.

One day, I was walking to Hans' studio carrying my sheets of music under my arm. It was Hans' own composition, *Piano Concerto for Joy*, which he'd presented to me the day before.

"It's for you, Joy, my dear," he'd said proudly. "Soon you will be ready for your entry into the world of music, and I want you to play this, for then our two talents will be joined!"

The day was warm and sunny, and as I walked toward Hans' studio, I felt a vague yearning stir within me. Once again I conjured up the picture of the

concert hall and the hypnotized audience. For the first time, however, this didn't seem to satisfy my longing. "What am I wishing for?" I wondered. "What is lacking in my life?"

I turned a corner, deep in thought, and ran straight into a young man hurrying in my direction. The sheets of music I had been carrying scattered and fluttered to the sidewalk. As I recovered my breath I was annoyed—I would be late getting to my lesson and the pages of music would be soiled!

"I'm terribly sorry," said the young man, stooping to recover my music. Then he looked up, smiling, and his eyes met mine. I couldn't help smiling back, he had such nice blue eyes, crinkling at the corners. "Will you forgive me?" he asked, rising and handing me my music.

"Of course," I answered. "It was my fault." I started to walk on.

"Oh, no," he said, falling into step beside me. "It was my fault entirely!"

I laughed. "At any rate," I said, "There's no harm done. Thank you very much for picking up my music, and—goodbye."

He stopped, and as I walked on I couldn't help turning back to smile at him.

"Goodbye . . ." he said. He seemed sorry to see me go, but I hastened my footsteps toward Hans' studio, telling myself to forget the incident.

Hans and I went over the concerto and when he corrected me for the third time on a very simple chord, I rose.

"No more today, Hans," I said. "I'm tired."

Hans' eyes were solicitous. "You seem upset about something," he said worriedly. "Is anything wrong, Joy? Please tell me if there is . . ."

I brushed him aside. "It's nothing," I said wearily. "I just don't feel like music today."

As I left I realized I had hurt him, but I didn't seem to care. All the way home I searched the faces on the street for the nice young man who had picked

ADVERTISEMENT

"I WAS ASHAMED OF MY FACE

until Viderm made my dreams of a clearer skin come true in one short week"

(FROM A LETTER TO BETTY MEMPHIS SENT HER BY ETHEL JORDAN, DETROIT, MICH.)

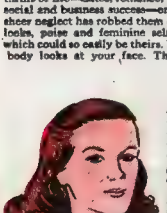
If your face is broken out, if bad skin is making you miserable, here is how to stop worrying about pimples, blackheads and other externally caused skin troubles.

JUST FOLLOW SKIN DOCTOR'S SIMPLE DIRECTIONS

"I just want to be alone!" Is there anything more awful than the blues that come when your face is broken out and you feel like hiding away because of pimples, blackheads and similar externally caused skin troubles? I know how it feels from personal experience. And I can appreciate the wonderful, wonderful joy that Ethel S. Jordan felt when she found something that not only *promised* her relief—but *gave* it to her in just one short week!

When I was having my own skin troubles, I tried a good many cosmetics, ointments and whatnot that were recommended to me. I remember vividly how disappointed I felt each time, until I discovered the skin doctor's formula now known as the Double Viderm Treatment. I felt pretty wonderful when friends began to rave about my "movie-star skin." No more self-consciousness. No more having my friends feel sorry for me. The secret joy, again, of running my fingertips over a smoother, clearer skin.

Many women shut themselves out of the thrills of life—dates, romance, popularity, social and business success—only because sheer neglect has robbed them of the good looks, poise and feminine self-assurance which could so easily be theirs. Yes, everybody looks at your face. The beautiful complexion, which is yours for the asking, is like a permanent card of admission to all the good things of life that every woman craves. And it really can be yours —*take my word for it!*—no matter how discouraged you may be this very minute about those externally caused skin miseries.



A screen star's face is her fortune. That's why she makes it her business to protect her complexion against pimples, blackheads and blemishes. Your face is no different. Give it the Double Treatment it needs and watch those skin blemishes go away.

What Makes "Bad Skin" Get That Way?

Medical science gives us the truth about how skin blemishes usually develop. There are small specks of dust and dirt in the air all the time. When these get into the open pores in your skin, they can in time "stretch" the pores and make them large enough to pocket dirt particles, dust and infection. These open pores become infected and bring you the humiliation of pimples, blackheads or other blemishes. Often, the natural oils that lubricate your skin will harden in the pores and result in unsightly blemishes.

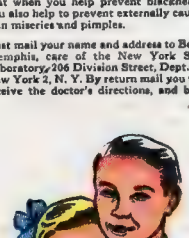
When you neglect your skin by not giving it the necessary care, you leave yourself wide open to externally caused skin miseries. Yet just a little attention with the Double Viderm Treatment may mean the difference between enjoying the confidence a fine skin gives you or the embarrassment of an ugly, unbeautiful skin that makes you want to hide your face.

The Double Viderm Treatment is a formula prescribed with amazing success by a dermatologist and costs you only a few cents daily. This treatment consists of two jars. One contains Viderm Skin Cleanser, a jelly-like formula which penetrates your pores and acts as an antiseptic. After you use this special Viderm Skin Cleanser, you simply apply the Viderm Fortified Medicated Skin Cream. You rub this in, leaving an almost invisible protective covering for the surface of your skin.

This double treatment has worked wonders for so many cases of external skin troubles that it may help you, too —*in fact, your money will be refunded if it doesn't.* Use it for only ten days. You have everything to gain and nothing to lose. It is a guaranteed treatment. Enjoy it. Your dream of a clearer, smoother complexion may come true in ten days or less.

Use your Double Viderm Treatment every day until your skin is smoother and clearer. Then use it only once a week to remove stale make-up and dirt specks that infect your pores, as well as to aid in healing external irritations. Remember that when you help prevent blackheads, you also help to prevent externally caused skin miseries and pimples.

Just mail your name and address to Betty Memphis, care of the New York Skin Laboratory, 206 Division Street, Dept. 2, New York 2, N. Y. By return mail you will receive the doctor's directions, and both



jars, packed in a safety-sealed carton. On delivery, pay two dollars plus postage. If you wish, you can save the postage fee by mailing the two dollars with your letter. Then, if you are in any way dissatisfied, your money will be cheerfully refunded. To give you an idea of how fully tested and proven the Viderm Double Treatment is, it may interest you to know that, up to this month, over two hundred and thirty-one thousand women have ordered it on my recommendation. If you could only see the thousands of happy, grateful letters that have come to me as a result, you would know the joy this simple treatment can bring. And, think of it!—the treatment must work for you, or it doesn't cost you a cent.

up my music, but I didn't see him.

The next morning the doorbell rang; I opened the door and he was standing before me.

"Hello," he said, the same grin crinkling his eyes. "Would you care to buy a vacuum cleaner?"

I laughed. I couldn't believe that he was a vacuum-cleaner salesman.

"No, I'm not," he confessed. "But I did want to see you again. It took quite a bit of research to find out who you were, but I never give up on a project."

While I was talking to him, my father came into the hall behind me.

"Invite the young man in, Joy," he said. "I'm glad to see you have a young friend. I'd like to meet him."

That was the way we met, Gerald and I. In the next few weeks I went conscientiously to my lessons, but the old feeling for my music was dulled and my mind kept wandering to Gerald. Practicing was drudgery—all I cared about were evenings spent with Gerald, dancing or holding hands in the movies.

One night we went for a moonlight picnic at the lake. As we sat side by side before the fire, I felt a great contentment. The beauty of the moment filled my soul, and thoughts of Hans, and of my piano, were miles away.

In the flickering firelight Gerald's face was close to mine. "Joy," he murmured. "My darling!" And he gathered me into his arms. As he kissed me I heard music more beautiful than any concerto . . . the moonlight on the lake, the stars overhead, Gerald's words of love whispered in my ear . . . all blended into a love song I'd never heard before, and I realized suddenly, achingly, that I'd have to give it all up. Hans, I thought. Hans and his dreams—that's my destiny!

I drew out of Gerald's arms, and without any explanation, insisted that he take me home. He was bewildered and hurt, but I kept thinking of Hans and my music, and I determined not to see Gerald again.

The next few weeks were torture. I spent more and more time at Hans' studio, perfecting my playing of the concerto, driving myself until even Hans protested.

Gerald called repeatedly but I refused to talk to him. I felt as one possessed, the music of the concerto ringing in my ears, awake or asleep.

Finally one evening Hans announced that I was ready for my audition with a concert master. It was late; we had worked right through the dinner hour without stopping. Hans babbled excitedly about my career, but I felt no elation. With my shoulders slumped from exhaustion I bade him good night.

When I closed my own front door behind me, on an impulse I went to the piano. My fingers wandered aimlessly over the keys without my conscious direction. I heard my Father's step on the stairs and then the doorbell rang, sharp and insistent. Puzzled, I stopped playing and looked up. Gerald was standing in the doorway.

"Would you care to buy a vacuum cleaner?" he asked, and grinned.

"Oh, Gerald!" I cried, my heart in my voice, and I was in his arms.

"I missed you so!" he said. "I couldn't stay away! I waited for you to come home—I had to tell you. I'm going away—to South America. I want you to come with me. Marry me, Joy, darling, please!"

To go away with my love! I knew suddenly that that was what I wanted—*all* I wanted.

"Oh, yes, Gerald! Yes!" I cried.

With his arms tight around me and his lips warm on mine, I wasn't aware of anything else until the sound of a sob came from the doorway. Hans was standing there, his head bowed sorrowfully, slowly tearing up some pieces of paper. I could see that it was *Piano Concerto for Joy.*

"Hans!" I cried. "What in the world—?"

"I was bringing you your music," Hans said brokenly, "so you could practice in the morning. You forgot it!" His eyes were not loving now—they were reproachful and angry. "Finished!" he muttered, throwing down the last scrap of music. "It's all finished!"

"Yes," I said quietly, holding Gerald's hand tightly. "It's all finished, Hans. I wasn't meant to be a great concert pianist, or a great anything. I only want to marry Gerald, and be happy."

As Hans walked out the door, there was a new look on his face, and his shoulders, which always drooped, straightened up. I knew he was already planning for the future, thinking of a new protégé, a new plan for fame.

I never saw Hans again. Somewhere, somehow, I hope he has found the musical genius he sought, for I have what now I know I've always wanted: I have my love. SL—5368

THE END

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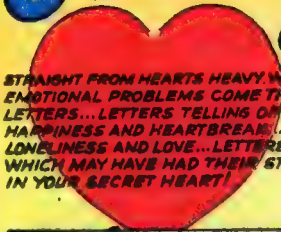
If you prefer, enclose money with coupon and we'll pay postage. Same 10-day refund guarantee.

STRAIGHT FROM THE Heart!



STRAIGHT FROM HEARTS HEAVY WITH EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS COME THESE LETTERS... LETTERS TELLING OF HAPPINESS AND HEARTBREAK... OF LONELINESS AND LOVE... LETTERS WHICH MAY HAVE HAD THEIR START IN YOUR SECRET HEART!

5822

A WIFE IN ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, WRITES:

Dear Editor,

I have a wonderful husband and three adorable children. My husband doesn't make much money, and I have to work from morning to night. I don't mind except for the fact that he is constantly complaining that he works harder than I do. It's a little point, I know, but I'm sure my working day is harder and longer than his, and his comments annoy me.

M. R. C.

DEAR M.R.C.,

YOUR HUSBAND MAY DRIVE HIMSELF DURING THE DAY, BUT HIS EFFORTS CEASE AFTER OFFICE HOURS. A HOUSEWIFE'S ENDLESS TASKS COMPLETELY DOMINATE HER LIFE. HE KNOWS THIS, AND HIS COMPLAINTS ARE MOST LIKELY AN INADVERTENT BID FOR YOUR ATTENTION (WHICH IS PROBABLY LARGELY CONSUMED BY YOUR HOUSE AND CHILDREN), EVEN IF IT IS JUST FOR A MOMENT OF BICKERING.

THE NEXT TIME HIS REMARKS BEGIN TO IRRITATE YOU, CHECK YOURSELF—AND PAMPER HIM A BIT BY TELLING HIM HOW WONDERFUL YOU THINK HE IS.

THIS SIMPLE PSYCHOLOGY WILL WORK WONDERS. TRY IT AND SEE!

A WORRIED EX-G.I. STATES HIS PROBLEM:

Dear Editors,

Marge and I have been engaged for three years, and we're anxious to be married. But I live with my mother and she objects to my marrying and leaving her. I can support both Mother and Marge, but I don't think they'd be happy if we all lived together. What would you advise me to do?

S.V.

DEAR S.V.,

YOUR MOTHER HAS NO RIGHT TO SACRIFICE YOUR HAPPINESS OR MARGE'S TO HER SELFISHNESS. YOU'RE RIGHT, IT WOULD BE A SERIOUS MISTAKE FOR THE THREE OF YOU TO LIVE UNDER THE SAME ROOF. WE ADVISE YOU TO FIND YOUR MOTHER A LITTLE APARTMENT OR A HOME WHERE SHE'LL HAVE PLENTY OF COMPANY. IN THIS WAY, AT LEAST, YOU AND MARGE WOULD HAVE A CHANCE TO DEVELOP A NORMAL MARRIED LIFE. YOUR MOTHER MAY COMPLAIN, BUT BE FIRM—AND SHE'LL SOON REALIZE YOU HAVE NO INTENTION OF JEOPARDIZING YOUR HAPPINESS FOR THE WISHES OF A POSSESSIVE MOTHER.

WHAT SHOULD THIS PUZZLED MOTHER DO?

Dear Editors,

Our daughter, who is 18, is in love with a man twice her age. My husband and I feel that he can't give her the life she deserves, and that she's too young to decide for herself. Should we forbid her to see him?

the E.R.V.'s.

DEAR ERV'S,

YOU HAVE AN IMPORTANT DECISION TO MAKE--AND ONE WHICH MAY HAVE FAR-REACHING EFFECTS ON YOUR DAUGHTER'S LIFE! YOU MAY EITHER FORCE YOUR JUDGMENT UPON HER, OR ALLOW HER TO COME TO HER OWN CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THIS MAN.

NATURALLY YOU WANT TO SAVE HER FROM A LIFE OF UNHAPPINESS--BUT PARENTAL INTERVENTION AT A TIME LIKE THIS MAY THROW HER FEELINGS FOR HIM ENTIRELY OUT OF PROPORTION! WE ADVICE THAT YOU SUBTLY URGE HER TO SEE MORE OF MEN HER OWN AGE--BUT TRY TO AVOID TAKING DECISIVE MEASURES.

HAVE YOU A PROBLEM SIMILAR TO THIS?

Dear Editors,

Three years ago I fell in love with Hal. I was seventeen then. When he returned from the service, we became engaged. Since then, I've been working in the city to earn money for my trousseau and I've met a lot of young, unmarried men. Now when I see Hal on the weekends, I don't feel the same toward him. I think I still love him, but I'd like to postpone our wedding date a year, to make sure. What shall I do? J.R.

DEAR J.N.,

YOUR PROBLEM ISN'T UNCOMMON--MANY GIRLS SUDDENLY DISCOVER THAT THEY ARE NOT IN LOVE WITH THE SWEETHEARTS THEY'VE TAKEN FOR GRANTED. WHAT WE'RE GOING TO TELL YOU MAY SOUND LIKE HARSH ADVICE, BUT THE MERE FACT THAT YOU WANT TO EXTEND YOUR ENGAGEMENT A YEAR MEANS THAT YOU NEED TO MEET AND DATE OTHER MEN. WE SAY, STOP KIDDING YOURSELF--AND URGE YOU NOT TO MARRY HAL FEELING AS YOU DO! SUCH A MOVE MAY MEAN MISERY FOR YOU BOTH AS LONG AS YOU LIVE!

HERE'S A WIFE VS. SECRETARY LETTER:

Dear Editor,

I'm 32 and have been married to my husband for eleven years, but recently a situation has come up that's driving me crazy! His old secretary quit and an attractive young woman has taken her place! He denies having any feeling for her, but I'm certain she'll wreck our marriage if she could. Can you tell me what to do? Mrs. E.

DEAR MRS. E.,

DON'T YOU THINK YOUR ATTITUDE SOUNDS A BIT NEUROTIC? AFTER ALL, YOU HAVE NO PROOF THAT THIS GIRL IS TRYING TO CAPTIVATE YOUR HUSBAND--YOU HAVE ONLY A NAGGING THOUGHT THAT STEMS FROM A FEELING OF INSECURITY.

RATHER THAN LET THIS GREMLIN REDUCE YOU TO A SHADOW OF WORRY, GET BUSY AND WORK AT WAYS TO BE A BETTER WIFE. IF YOUR DAYS ARE DESIGNED TO MAKE YOUR HUSBAND'S LIFE HAPPIER AND MORE COMFORTABLE, YOU'LL SOON FORGET YOUR FEAR.

ALSO, DON'T OVERLOOK THE FACT THAT YOUR HUSBAND IS TRYING TO MAKE A LIVING IN A HIGHLY COMPETITIVE SOCIETY AND PROBABLY HAS NO TIME OR DESIRE TO REGARD HIS SECRETARY AS ANYTHING BUT OFFICE PERSONNEL

HERE IS A LETTER FROM OREGON:

Dear Editors,

I've been in the Army of Occupation and have been writing to a girl for two years. I thought I was in love with her, but when I saw her, I realized I wasn't. She expects us to be married. How can I tell her I don't love her without hurting her?

G.E.G.

DEAR G.E.G.,

ARE YOU SURE YOU KNOW YOUR OWN HEART AND THAT NOTHING CAN BE SALVAGED FROM FORMER AFFECTIONS? IF SO, WE FEEL THAT THE LONGER YOU PUT OFF TELLING OF YOUR DECISION, THE HARDER IT WILL BE FOR YOU BOTH

IF SHE IS TRULY IN LOVE WITH YOU, THERE WILL BE A DIFFICULT PERIOD OF ADJUSTMENT FOR HER WHICH CANNOT BE AVOIDED BUT THIS PERIOD CAN BE AT LEAST MINIMIZED IF YOU TELL HER HOW YOU FEEL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE--RATHER THAN LEADING HER ON AND ALLOWING HER HOPES AND DREAMS TO GATHER MOMENTUM!

IF YOU HAVE A PRESSING ROMANTIC PROBLEM, WRITE US ABOUT IT--IN CARE OF

THE EDITORS, MY OWN ROMANCE SUITE 1404, 350 FIFTH AVE. NEW YORK 1, NEW YORK

MY POOR BABY./ MY POOR HELPLESS BABY./ THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT AS I RUSHED TO TAKE HIM IN MY ARMS./ HE NEEDED ME MORE THAN EVER IN THIS BLACKEST OF MOMENTS./ I FELT SO SORRY FOR HIM, I COULDN'T EVEN GET ANGRY AT HIM FOR BREAKING HIS PROMISE BY DRINKING./

OH, HONEY, THEY'RE ALL WRONG./ THE PICTURES WERE WONDERFUL./ THOSE FOOLS/ WHAT DO THEY KNOW ABOUT ART?

SURE, THAT'S IT./ I'M AN ARTIST, THAT'S WHAT I AM/ EVERY-BODY ELSE IS CRAZY, HUH, EVELYN?

"WHEN A LOVE MUST DIE!"

BASED ON A TRUE STORY./

SOME LOVES GROW MELLOW AND RICH AS THE YEARS ROLL ON... SOME LOVES TURN SOUR AND STALE WITH EACH PASSING DAY! EVELYN SAWYER KNEW THE DAY WOULD COME WHEN SHE'D HAVE TO ASK HERSELF... WAS HERS A LOVE TO FIGHT FOR, OR WAS THIS THE TIME WHEN A LOVE MUST DIE?

ROMANCE IS AN EMOTION THAT CAN BLOOM ANYWHERE./ IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE, THE STAGE IS SET IN ONE OF THE CARS OF AN UPSTATE TRAIN AS IT SPEEDS OUT OF GRAND CENTRAL STATION./ ON BOARD, A LONELY GIRL SITS NEXT TO A WINDOW... HER EYES BRIMMING WITH TEARS...

SITTING AGROSS FROM HER, A KINDLY OLD WOMAN LOOKS UP FROM HER MAGAZINE TO ASK...

OH, MY DEAR... FORGIVE ME, BUT I COULDN'T HELP NOTICING/ IS ANYTHING WRONG?

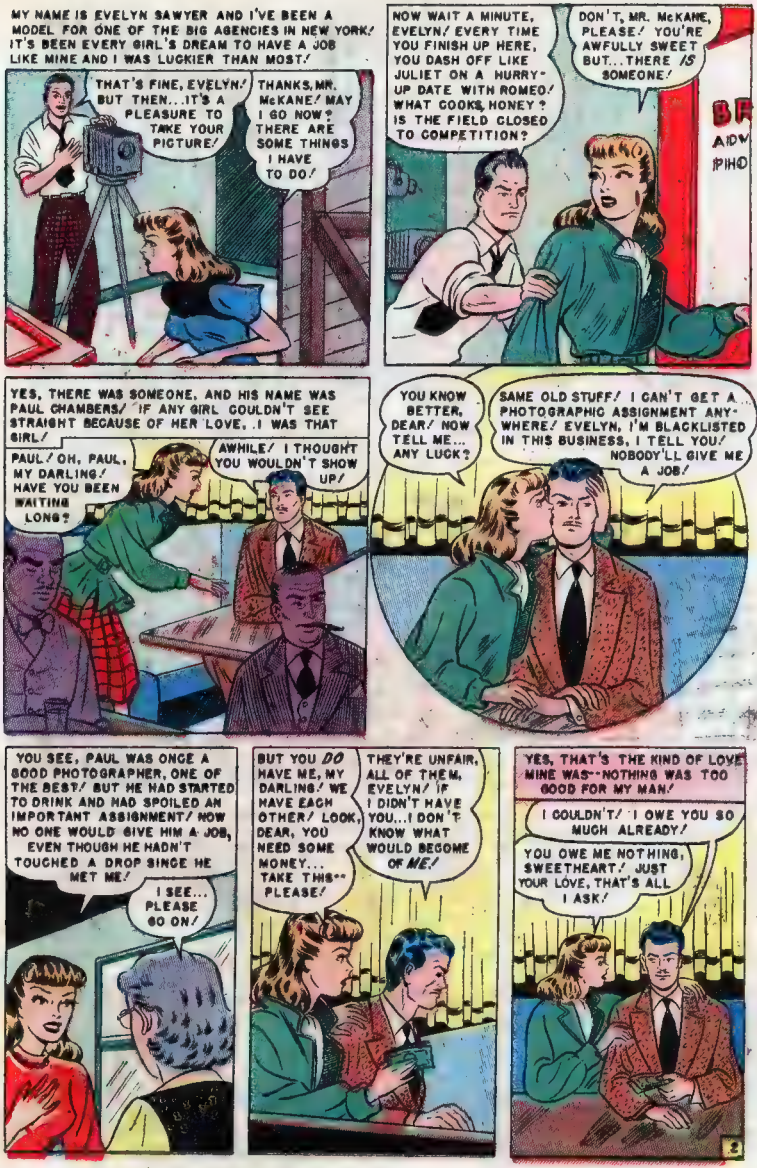
WRONG? OH, NO./ I'M CRYING BECAUSE I'M SO... SO... HAPPY./

YOU SEE, WHEN I GET OFF THIS TRAIN I'LL BE THE HAPPIEST GIRL IN THE WORLD./ I'M GOING TO MEET THE MAN I LOVE AND WE'LL BE MARRIED./

SO THAT'S IT./ YOUNG LOVE IS AS BEAUTIFUL AS IT WAS WHEN I WAS A GIRL./ I'M ONLY A STRANGER, BUT YOU HAVE MY BEST WISHES./ I'M VERY HAPPY FOR YOU./

THAT'S SWEET AND KIND OF YOU./ OH, MAY I TELL YOU ABOUT HIM AND ME? I CAN'T KEEP IT INSIDE ME ANY MORE./ I'M FAIRLY BURSTING TO TELL SOMEONE./ MAY I?

OF COURSE, MY DEAR./ EVEN AT MY AGE A STORY OF A YOUNG ROMANCE CAN MAKE MY HEART TINGLE./


MY NAME IS EVELYN SAWYER AND I'VE BEEN A MODEL FOR ONE OF THE BIG AGENCIES IN NEW YORK. IT'S BEEN EVERY GIRL'S DREAM TO HAVE A JOB LIKE MINE AND I WAS LUCKIER THAN MOST.
THAT'S FINE, EVELYN. BUT THEN...IT'S A PLEASURE TO TAKE YOUR PICTURE.
THANKS, MR. McKANE. MAY I GO NOW? THERE ARE SOME THINGS I HAVE TO DO.
NOW WAIT A MINUTE, EVELYN. EVERY TIME YOU FINISH UP HERE, YOU DASH OFF LIKE JULIET ON A HURRY-UP DATE WITH ROMEO. WHAT COOKS, HONEY? IS THE FIELD CLOSED TO COMPETITION?
DON'T, MR. McKANE, PLEASE. YOU'RE AWFULLY SWEET BUT...THERE IS SOMEONE.
YES, THERE WAS SOMEONE, AND HIS NAME WAS PAUL CHAMBERS. IF ANY GIRL COULDN'T SEE STRAIGHT BECAUSE OF HER LOVE, I WAS THAT GIRL.
PAUL. OH, PAUL, MY DARLING. HAVE YOU BEEN WAITING LONG?
AWHILE. I THOUGHT YOU WOULDN'T SHOW UP.
YOU KNOW BETTER, DEAR. NOW TELL ME... ANY LUCK?
SAME OLD STUFF. I CAN'T GET A PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSIGNMENT ANYWHERE. EVELYN, I'M BLACKLISTED IN THIS BUSINESS, I TELL YOU. NOBODY'LL GIVE ME A JOB.
YOU SEE, PAUL WAS ONCE A GOOD PHOTOGRAPHER, ONE OF THE BEST. BUT HE HAD STARTED TO DRINK AND HAD SPOILED AN IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT. NOW NO ONE WOULD GIVE HIM A JOB, EVEN THOUGH HE HADN'T TOUCHED A DROP SINCE HE MET ME.
I SEE... PLEASE GO ON.
BUT YOU DO HAVE ME, MY DARLING. WE HAVE EACH OTHER. LOOK, DEAR, YOU NEED SOME MONEY... TAKE THIS-- PLEASE.
THEY'RE UNFAIR, ALL OF THEM, EVELYN. IF I DIDN'T HAVE YOU...I DON'T KNOW WHAT WOULD BECOME OF ME.
YES, THAT'S THE KIND OF LOVE MINE WAS--NOTHING WAS TOO GOOD FOR MY MAN.
I COULDN'T. I OWE YOU SO MUCH ALREADY.
YOU OWE ME NOTHING, SWEETHEART. JUST YOUR LOVE, THAT'S ALL I ASK.
2

BEING A MODEL, I HAD MANY FRIENDS AND IMPORTANT CONTACTS, OF COURSE! AND ALL OF THEM THOUGHT THE SAME THING ABOUT PAUL...HE WAS NO GOOD! AT A PARTY FOR MODELS AND AGENTS, SONIA MEARS, ANOTHER MODEL AND A PAL OF MINE, HARPED ON IT ALL EVENING...!
LOOK, KIDDO, I'M NO ADVISER TO THE LOVE-LORN, BUT HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO WAIT FOR THAT LUSH TO MAKE GOOD? YOU'RE NOT GETTING ANY YOUNGER AND YOU'RE PASSING UP A LOT OF GOOD CHANCES ...ESPECIALLY LARRY DUMONT!
SONIA, THERE'S ONLY ONE MAN IN MY LIFE--YOU KNOW THAT!
LARRY DUMONT! RICH, YOUNG AND A GOOD GUY! HE BURST INTO OUR CONVERSATION AND HIS VOICE WAS A BIT SAD AS HE SAID...
YES, WE ALL KNOW THAT! BUT I WISH IT WERE ME!
AHEM! I'LL...ER, SEE YOU KIDS LATER!
LARRY!
EVELYN, FOR THE FORTY-SIXTH TIME, AND AT THE RISK OF BEING A BORE, WILL YOU MARRY ME?
OH, LARRY...YOU ARE SWEET! IF I HADN'T MET PAUL...
PAUL! PAUL! PAUL! THAT'S ALL I HEAR! HOW BLIND CAN YOUR LOYALTY TO THAT DUNCE BE? HE'S NO GOOD, EVELYN! HE NEVER GIVES!.. JUST TAKES! I KNOW ALL ABOUT HOW YOU LEND HIM MONEY TO KEEP HIM GOING! WHAT KIND OF A HEEL IS THAT FOR A GIRL LIKE YOU?
YOU...YOU... YOU BEAST! HOW DARE YOU SPEAK THAT WAY! JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE MONEY AND PAUL IS POOR!
IT'S HIS OWN DOING! HE LOVES THE BOTTLE MORE THAN HE'D EVER CARE FOR YOU OR ANYONE ELSE!
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING--HE DOESN'T DRINK ANY MORE! AND HE'LL MAKE GOOD, YOU'LL SEE! YOU'LL ALL SEE HOW WRONG YOU ARE!
ALL RIGHT, EVELYN, I GIVE UP! I GUESS NOTHING CAN MAKE YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND ABOUT HIM! I DO WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY AND I SINCERELY HOPE I AM WRONG, I WANT HIM TO MAKE GOOD... FOR YOUR SAKE!
THERE WAS A STRANGELY RESIGNED LOOK IN HIS EYES AS HE SAID THIS! I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND HIM AT ALL! HE WANTED PAUL TO MAKE GOOD! HIS SUDDEN REVERSAL OF ATTITUDE LEFT ME BEWILDERED, BUT I FORGOT ALL ABOUT HIM THE NEXT DAY WHEN I SAW PAUL!
EVELYN, A LETTER CAME FOR ME TODAY! I'VE GOT A JOB!
A JOB! PAUL! HOW WONDERFUL! IT'S YOUR CHANCE... YOUR BIG CHANCE! BUT...WHY...WHAT IS IT? YOU DON'T SEEM EXCITED!
3

I'M A LITTLE SCARED OF IT. IT'S A BIG ACCOUNT. I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN DO IT.
BUT DARLING, OF COURSE YOU CAN. OH, PAUL, I'LL HELP YOU. DO YOU NEED A MODEL? I'LL POSE... WE'LL DO IT... YOU'LL SEE. WE'VE GOT TO.
PAUL, OF COURSE, WAS A GENIUS. THAT'S WHY HE WAS MOODY AND UNSURE. I KEPT TALKING TO HIM, TRYING TO GIVE HIM THE STRENGTH OF MY COURAGE...
IT MEANS YOUR CHANCE, DEAR. IT MEANS MARRIAGE FOR US.
YES, EVELYN... MY CHANCE.
WE WORKED HARD IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED. I GAVE UP ALL MY ACCOUNTS TO POSE FOR PAUL.
THAT'S IT. THE LAST ONE. DO YOU THINK THEY'LL BE ALL RIGHT?
THEY'LL BE WONDERFUL, PAUL. OH, I'M SO HAPPY FOR BOTH OF US.
THE PICTURES WOULD BE READY IN A FEW DAYS. HOW CAN I TELL YOU OF HOW I WAITED? ALL MY DREAMS WERE WRAPPED UP IN THOSE PHOTOS. THEY MEANT EVERYTHING. I FAIRLY RAN UP THE STEPS TO PAUL'S STUDIO, MY HEART RACING WITH ME, AND I OPENED THE DOOR TO SEE...
PAUL, LET ME SEE, PAUL. WHAT IS IT?
HELLO, EVELYN, OL' GAL, OL' GAL, OL' GAL.
I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT. PAUL WAS DRUNK--DEAD DRUNK--AND THE FLOOR OF HIS STUDIO WAS LITTERED WITH TORN PRINTS OF THE PHOTOS HE HAD TAKEN OF ME. MY HEART WAS IN MY THROAT. EVERYTHING WAS BLURRED AND I COULD BARELY ASK...
WHY? WHY? WHAT DOES THIS MEAN, PAUL? TELL ME!
I'M A FLOP! IT'S SIMPLE, SWEETIE, SEE? THE PIX WERE AWFUL--THE AGENCY TURNED 'EM DOWN. LET'S HAVE A DRINK, HONEY.
MY POOR BABY. MY POOR HELPLESS BABY. THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT AS I RUSHED TO TAKE HIM IN MY ARMS. HE NEEDED ME MORE THAN EVER IN THIS BLACKEST OF MOMENTS. I FELT SO SORRY FOR HIM. I COULDN'T EVEN GET ANGRY AT HIM FOR BREAKING HIS PROMISE BY DRINKING.
OH, HONEY, THEY'RE ALL WRONG. THE PICTURES WERE WONDERFUL. THOSE FOOLS. WHAT DO THEY KNOW ABOUT ART?
SURE, THAT'S IT. I'M AN ARTIST, THAT'S WHAT I AM. EVERYBODY ELSE IS CRAZY, HUH, EVELYN?
I DIDN'T FEEL MY OWN HEARTBREAK UNTIL LATER, WHEN I LEFT. THEN I HAD TO SEE SONIA. I NEEDED SYMPATHY--BUT I GOT NONE FROM HER.
SO LITTLE BOY PAUL IS UP TO HIS OLD TRICKS, EH? LOOK, HONEY, FORGET HIM. YOU'RE NOT THE FIRST GIRL HE'S TREATED SHABBILY. WISE UP BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE AND HE BREAKS YOUR HEART.
SONIA, YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND. THAT WAS A MOMENTARY WEAKNESS ON PAUL'S PART. HE'S NOT REALLY LIKE THAT.

SONIA WAS A LOYAL FRIEND... I KNEW THAT/ SHE WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT ME AND SHE MEANT SO WELL./ SUDDENLY, I DON'T KNOW WHY, I FOUND MYSELF WEEPING IN HER ARMS./ THE FLOODGATES OF MY HEART OPENED, AND THE TEARS POURED FORTH WITH A RUSH!

OH, SONIA/ SONIA/ HELP ME TO HAVE FAITH IN PAUL./ HELP ME TO BE STRONG./

THERE, NOW, SWEETS, YOU'RE A WONDERFUL GIRL AND I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU GET HURT./ MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT./ I HOPE SO, BECAUSE IT SEEMS THAT NOTHING WILL MAKE YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND ABOUT HIM./

I HADN'T SEEN LARRY AROUND FOR A LONG TIME./ HE WAS AVOIDING HIS USUAL HAUNTS AND I MUST CONFESS I MISSED HIM A LITTLE BIT./ I GUESS HE REALIZED THAT HE DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE COMPARED TO PAUL! OH, WELL./ PAUL STRAIGHTENED HIMSELF OUT AND MADE THE ROUNDS AGAIN, LOOKING FOR WORK./ THEN IT CAME/ A JOB./ A *BIG* JOB./ ART DIRECTOR OF A NATIONAL MAGAZINE./

THAT MUST HAVE MADE YOU VERY HAPPY, MY DEAR./

OH, IT DID./ THE OFFER CAME AS AN UNUSUAL SURPRISE, AND PAUL AND I STARTED TO SPIN OUR WEB OF DREAMS ONCE MORE./

THIS TIME YOU'LL MAKE IT, WON'T YOU, DEAR? I KNOW YOU WILL./

I CERTAINLY HOPE SO, EVELYN./ AND I WILL--WITH LUCK./

PAUL, YOU MUST HAVE MORE FAITH IN YOURSELF./ THIS NEW JOB IS REALLY YOUR BIG CHANCE./

BUT IT SCARES ME EV./ IT'S SO IMPORTANT./ IF I ONLY HAD THE FAITH IN ME THAT YOU HAVE... YOUR LOYALTY./

THERE IT WAS/ THAT WORD--LOYALTY./ BLIND LOYALTY, LARRY HAD CALLED IT./ BUT I SHUT MY MIND AND HEART TO ALL THAT IT IMPLIED AND LOST MYSELF IN THE WARMTH OF PAUL'S KISSES./

NO... NOT LOYALTY, PAUL./ *LOVE* ...THAT'S THE WORD./

YES, PAUL WORKED HARD AT HIS NEW JOB./ WEEKS PASSED, MONTHS. BUT HE STILL HADN'T TOLD ME THE ONE THING I WANTED TO HEAR--OUR WEDDING DATE./ HOWEVER, I WAITED./ IT WOULD BE SOON, I KNEW./ THEN, LATE ONE AFTERNOON, I MET HIM IN HIS OFFICE./ HE WAS UNUSUALLY UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING./

COME ON, EV./ LET'S GET THE BLAZES OUT OF THIS DUMP./

YES, PAUL, OF COURSE... BUT WHAT IS THE TROUBLE?

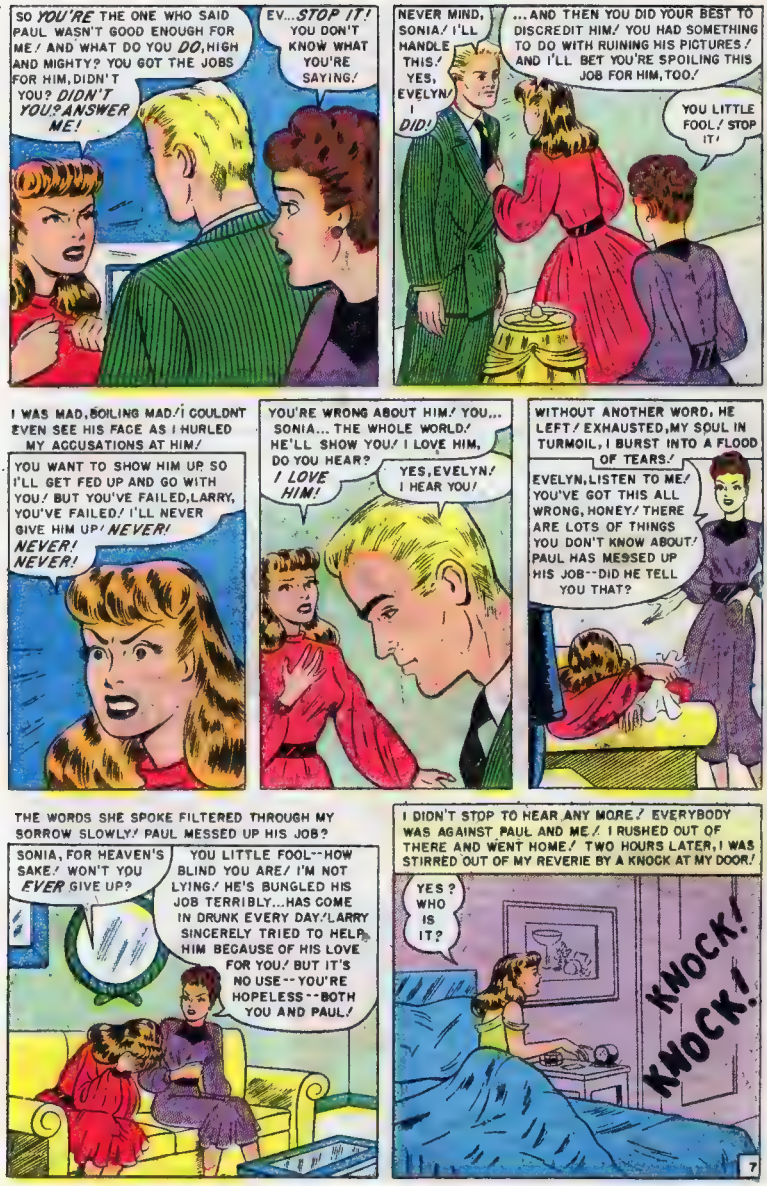
HE DIDN'T SAY A WORD./ OUTSIDE, HE TOOK ME TO THE NEAREST RESTAURANT AND...

WAITER, A COKE AND A DOUBLE SCOTCH--*QUICK!*

YES, SIR./

PAUL, NO./ YOU PROMISED ME YOU WOULDN'T!

SURE I PROMISED/ AND SO WHAT? DO YOU KNOW HOW I GOT THIS JOB? DO YOU? DO YOU?
PAUL, PLEASE! THE WHOLE PLACE IS WATCHING! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
BEFORE HE SPOKE AGAIN HE DRANK HIS DOUBLE SCOTCH...MY HEART WAS BEATING FURIOUSLY AS I WAITED/ WHAT HAD GONE WRONG?
YOU SHOULD KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT--YOUR BOY FRIEND GOT ME THE JOB!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? MY BOY FRIEND? PAUL, YOU'RE KIDDING!
KIDDING, AM I? I FOUND OUT PLENTY! IT WAS LARRY DUMONT! HE GOT ME THAT JOB AND THE OTHER ONE, TOO--THE ONE I BUNGLED! HE GOT IT BECAUSE OF YOU! HE LOVES YOU!
PAUL! OH PAUL! NO! NO! IT'S NOT TRUE! YOU GOT THE JOB YOURSELF!
I HAPPENED TO BE LISTENING ON AN EXTENSION! I HEARD HIM TALKING TO MY BOSS! HOW LOW DO YOU THINK I AM, EVELYN?... HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I'M GOING TO FIND OUT ABOUT THIS! DON'T WORRY, I KNOW WHY, LARRY DID IT...TO DELIBERATELY RUIN YOU! BUT I'LL TELL HIM AND TELL HIM PLENTY!
GO AHEAD, KID! YOU TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING! WAITER! ANOTHER SCOTCH--DOUBLE!
Merry Santa
SO THEY WERE AT IT AGAIN--TRYING TO SHOW MY PAUL UP! I CALLED SONIA AND TOLD HER TO GET LARRY OVER TO HER HOUSE....
HONEY! OF COURSE I WILL! DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE SEEN THE LIGHT?
YES, SONIA, I HAVE! JUST TELL LARRY I WANT TO TELL HIM SOMETHING ABOUT PAUL, HIMSELF AND ME!
SONIA HAD GOTTEN THE WRONG IMPRESSION, SO HER SURPRISE AT MY ATTITUDE WAS NATURAL!
THANKS FOR GETTING THAT MEDDLER OVER HERE, SONIA!
WHAT? EVELYN, I THOUGHT YOU...
YOU THOUGHT WRONG, I SEE, SONIA! WHAT'S UP, EVELYN?


SO YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID PAUL WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME! AND WHAT DO YOU DO, HIGH AND MIGHTY? YOU GOT THE JOBS FOR HIM, DIDN'T YOU? DIDN'T YOU? ANSWER ME!
EV... STOP IT! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING!
NEVER MIND, SONIA! I'LL HANDLE THIS! YES, EVELYN! I DID!
...AND THEN YOU DID YOUR BEST TO DISCREDIT HIM! YOU HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH RUINING HIS PICTURES! AND I'LL BET YOU'RE SPOILING THIS JOB FOR HIM, TOO!
YOU LITTLE FOOL! STOP IT!
I WAS MAD, BOILING MAD! I COULDN'T EVEN SEE HIS FACE AS I HURLED MY ACCUSATIONS AT HIM!
YOU WANT TO SHOW HIM UP SO I'LL GET FED UP AND GO WITH YOU! BUT YOU'VE FAILED, LARRY, YOU'VE FAILED! I'LL NEVER GIVE HIM UP! NEVER! NEVER!
YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT HIM! YOU... SONIA... THE WHOLE WORLD! HE'LL SHOW YOU! I LOVE HIM, DO YOU HEAR? I LOVE HIM!
YES, EVELYN! I HEAR YOU!
WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD, HE LEFT! EXHAUSTED, MY SOUL IN TURMOIL, I BURST INTO A FLOOD OF TEARS!
EVELYN, LISTEN TO ME! YOU'VE GOT THIS ALL WRONG, HONEY! THERE ARE LOTS OF THINGS YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT! PAUL HAS MESSED UP HIS JOB--DID HE TELL YOU THAT?
THE WORDS SHE SPOKE FILTERED THROUGH MY SORROW SLOWLY! PAUL MESSED UP HIS JOB?
SONIA, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE! WON'T YOU EVER GIVE UP?
YOU LITTLE FOOL--HOW BLIND YOU ARE! I'M NOT LYING! HE'S BUNGLED HIS JOB TERRIBLY... HAS COME IN DRUNK EVERY DAY! LARRY SINCERELY TRIED TO HELP HIM BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE FOR YOU! BUT IT'S NO USE--YOU'RE HOPELESS--BOTH YOU AND PAUL!
I DIDN'T STOP TO HEAR ANY MORE! EVERYBODY WAS AGAINST PAUL AND ME! I RUSHED OUT OF THERE AND WENT HOME! TWO HOURS LATER, I WAS STIRRED OUT OF MY REVERIE BY A KNOCK AT MY DOOR!
YES? WHO IS IT?
KNOCK! KNOCK!
7

PAUL CAME IN, BREATHLESS AND HAGGARD. HIS EYES FLAMED WITH WILD EMOTION AND HE SEEMED HYSTERICAL WITH FEAR.

EVELYN. HIDE ME. PROTECT ME, IF YOU LOVE ME. I'VE BEEN FRAMED. THEY WANT TO SEND ME TO JAIL. HIDE ME. PLEASE. PLEASE.

FRAMED? JAIL? PAUL, WHAT *ARE* YOU TALKING ABOUT? TELL ME.

I'M ALL MIXED UP. AFTER YOU LEFT ME TODAY, I KEPT ON DRINKING... TOO MUCH. I GOT MAD AT WHAT LARRY DID, SO I WENT BACK TO THE OFFICE. I WANTED TO DO SOMETHING TO GET EVEN WITH HIM. I WAS SITTING THERE, TRYING TO THINK. THERE WAS NOBODY THERE... IT WAS AFTER HOURS. THEN... I HEARD SOMEBODY COME IN. I GOT SCARED. THEY WERE LIABLE TO BLAME ME FOR ANYTHING... SO I STARTED TO RUN. SOMEONE YELLED, "STOP, THIEF!" AND I KEPT GOING.

OH, MY DARLING. MY POOR DARLING.

BEFORE HE COULD TELL ME MORE, THE DOOR OPENED AGAIN, AND THERE WAS... LARRY DUMONT.

PAUL, GIVE ME THOSE CHECKS.

WHAT? YOU SEE, EVELYN? WHAT DID I TELL YOU? HE'S OUT TO GET ME.

LARRY, HOW *DARE* YOU DO THIS TO US! HAVEN'T YOU CAUSED US *ENOUGH* TROUBLE? GO *AWAY!* GET OUT OF OUR LIVES AND LEAVE US ALONE.

BUT LARRY PAID NO ATTENTION TO ME. INSTEAD HE WALKED OVER TO PAUL AND HIT HIM.

GIVE ME THOSE CHECKS. YOU'RE A RAT, BUT IF EVELYN WANTS YOU, SHE'S GOING TO HAVE YOU IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING YOU CAN DO.

STOP IT. OH... YOU BEAST. *I HATE YOU!*

PAUL WAS KNOCKED OUT COLD. I WAS ABOUT TO JUMP ON LARRY TO SCRATCH HIS EYES OUT, WHEN HE REACHED INTO PAUL'S POCKET AND TOOK OUT... *A STACK OF CHECKS!*

THERE. THAT'S BETTER.

NO... IT CAN'T BE.

JUST THEN THE DOOR OPENED AGAIN -- AND THE ROOM WAS FILLED WITH POLICEMEN.

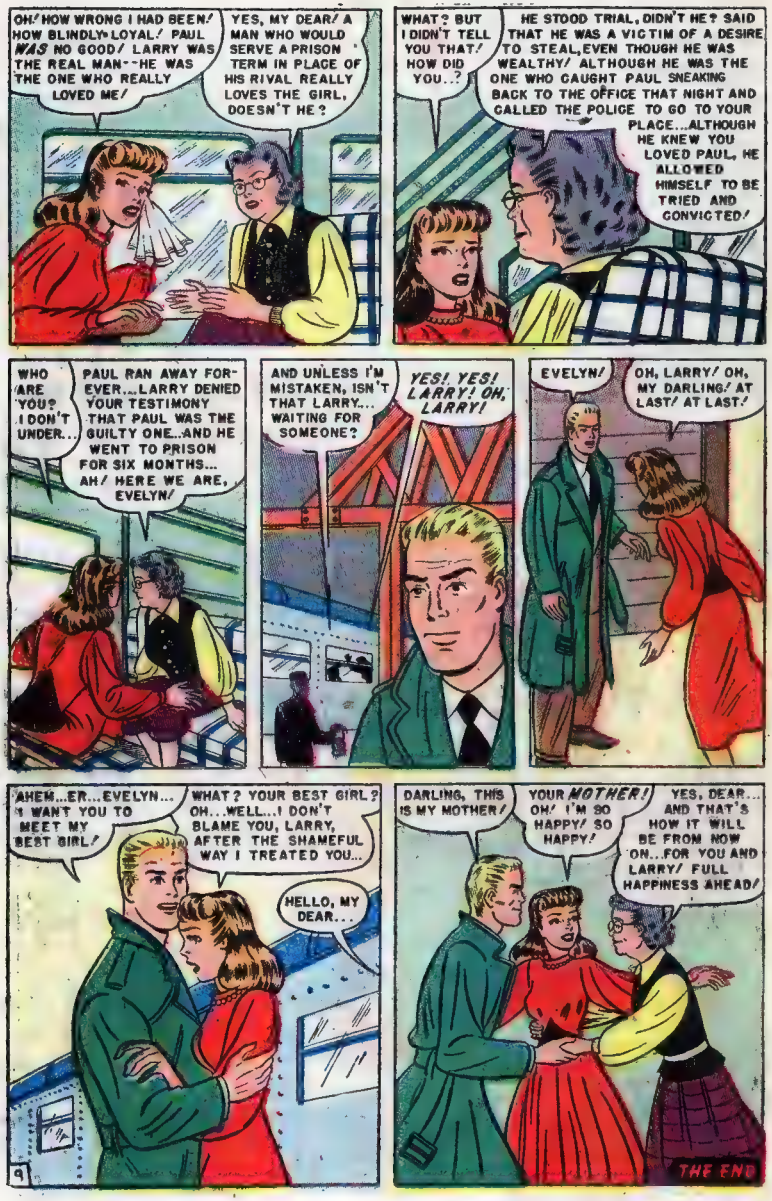
WE TRAILED A STICK-UP MAN HERE. HEY... WHAT GOES ON?

I'M YOUR MAN, OFFICER. I STOLE THE CHECKS. HERE THEY ARE.

NO.

BEFORE I COULD SAY MORE, LARRY CLOSED MY MOUTH... VERY EFFECTIVELY.

QUIET, BEAUTIFUL. YOU WANT PAUL... TAKE HIM AND BE HAPPY.


OH! HOW WRONG I HAD BEEN! HOW BLINDLY LOYAL! PAUL *WAS* NO GOOD! LARRY WAS THE REAL MAN--HE WAS THE ONE WHO REALLY LOVED ME!
YES, MY DEAR! A MAN WHO WOULD SERVE A PRISON TERM IN PLACE OF HIS RIVAL REALLY LOVES THE GIRL, DOESN'T HE?
WHAT? BUT I DIDN'T TELL YOU THAT! HOW DID YOU...?
HE STOOD TRIAL, DIDN'T HE? SAID THAT HE WAS A VICTIM OF A DESIRE TO STEAL, EVEN THOUGH HE WAS WEALTHY! ALTHOUGH HE WAS THE ONE WHO CAUGHT PAUL SNEAKING BACK TO THE OFFICE THAT NIGHT AND CALLED THE POLICE TO GO TO YOUR PLACE...ALTHOUGH HE KNEW YOU LOVED PAUL, HE ALLOWED HIMSELF TO BE TRIED AND CONVICTED!
WHO ARE YOU? I DON'T UNDER...
PAUL RAN AWAY FOREVER...LARRY DENIED YOUR TESTIMONY THAT PAUL WAS THE GUILTY ONE...AND HE WENT TO PRISON FOR SIX MONTHS... AH! HERE WE ARE, EVELYN!
AND UNLESS I'M MISTAKEN, ISN'T THAT LARRY... WAITING FOR SOMEONE?
YES! YES! LARRY! OH, LARRY!
EVELYN!
OH, LARRY! OH, MY DARLING! AT LAST! AT LAST!
AHEM...ER...EVELYN... I WANT YOU TO MEET MY BEST GIRL!
WHAT? YOUR BEST GIRL? OH...WELL...I DON'T BLAME YOU, LARRY, AFTER THE SHAMEFUL WAY I TREATED YOU...
HELLO, MY DEAR...
DARLING, THIS IS MY MOTHER!
YOUR *MOTHER!* OH! I'M SO HAPPY! SO HAPPY!
YES, DEAR... AND THAT'S HOW IT WILL BE FROM NOW ON...FOR YOU AND LARRY! FULL HAPPINESS AHEAD!
THE END
9

DANGEROUS TO BE TOO FAT

(An extract from Overweight and Underweight, a booklet published by a leading Life Insurance Company.)

"Certain diseases long have been associated with overweight. So definite has been this association that life insurance companies have been reluctant to place standard insurance on people with more than moderate overweight and where it is excessive, insurance has been refused altogether. *This practice shows that insurance companies consider overweight a very serious disability.* In addition to being a menace to health, overweight is a burden to carry about. It contributes to fatigue and bodily discomfort.

* * *

WHAT YOU SHOULD WEIGH

HEIGHT	WOMEN	MEN
4 ft 8 in.	112	
4 ft 9 in.	114	
4 ft 10 in.	116	
4 ft 11 in.	118	
5 ft.	120	126
5 ft. 1 in.	122	128
5 ft. 2 in.	124	130
5 ft. 3 in.	127	132
5 ft. 4 in.	131	136
5 ft. 5 in.	136	140
5 ft. 6 in.	138	144
5 ft. 7 in.	142	148
5 ft. 8 in.	146	152
5 ft. 9 in.	150	156
5 ft. 10 in.	154	161
5 ft. 11 in.	157	166
6 ft.	161	172
6 ft. 1 in.		178
6 ft. 2 in.		184
6 ft. 3 in.		190
6 ft. 4 in.		196
6 ft. 5 in.		201

Adults only, as ordinarily dressed.

MEN! DON'T STAY FAT

You CAN LOSE UP TO 7 POUNDS IN ONE WEEK

SAFELY! WITHOUT RISKING HEALTH

NO DRUGS
NO HARDSHIP
NO EXERCISE
NO MASSAGE
NOTHING TO WEAR

LOSE UGLY FAT NOW . . Notice the difference in POUNDS and INCHES the very first week, whether Overweight 10 or 100 Pounds even if burdened with fat for many years (illness excepted) The Protam Plan controls weight . t WEIGHT LOSS CAN BE PERMANENT by continuing the plan, once down to normal, it helps retain your new "athlete's waistline " as long as you like. Protam is not a Drug, Laxative or Thyroid . . . absolutely Harmless is good for you.

REDUCE In 10 Days OR MONEY BACK

PROTAM PLAN OXIDIZES EXCESS FAT

The Protam Plan reacts quickly . . . Drastically Cuts down Fat Producing Calories. USES UP ACCUMULATED EXCESS FAT. Lose Ugly Fat Economically, Simply, Pleasantly, without risking your health. Look and feel better, see bulges disappear within the first weeks. Thousands of Overweight people report sensational results, some Losing 20 Pounds in 30 Days, others enthuse about "How Well They Feel" while Reducing. To achieve some results . . Just Take Protam as directed, follow the Protam Plan Once or Twice a day, according to how fast you wish to Lose Weight. The Protam Plan is based on a low calory regimen. Protam is an appetite appeasing FOOD, Scientifically Formulated, Laboratory Tested and Approved, Fortified with energy-giving PROTEINS, AMINO ACIDS, MINERALS and VITAMINS.

READ HOW OTHERS LOST UNWANTED FAT

LOST 8 LBS. – "I have lost eight lbs. in 2 weeks. am satisfied with results." Mrs. D. B., Canton, Ohio

LOST 17 LBS. – "I lost 17 lbs. with the Protam Plan using only one can." Mrs. B. C., Tekoma Pk., B.C.

MORE ENERGY – "Have lost at least 6 lbs. a week. My feel so much better and have more energy and strength to do my work." Mrs. E. P.

WONDERFUL – "Protam is the most wonderful food I have ever taken, it does just what it says it will do." Mrs. M. S., New Rochelle, N.Y.

Ladies Reduce FAT

The Protam Plan was designed for normally healthy Ladies as well as Men. NOW . . . Lose Ugly Fat and correct that

MATRONLY FIGURE
HEAVY ABDOMEN
HEAVY WEIGHT IN LOWER PART OF BODY
UNATTRACTIVE, FLESHY APPEARANCE

FREE 10 DAY TRIAL OFFER

ORDER TODAY . . . You risk NO MONEY, not even postage. You must Lose Pounds and Inches within Ten Days or your Money will be Refunded immediately, including postage. Your decision is final. Just Mail Coupon Today . . . NOW. On Delivery simply pay postman $2.50 . . . begin Losing Fat the first few days. Enjoy New Energy . . . Have comeliness as your appearance.

PROTAM IS GOOD FOR YOU

Protam is good for you because it contains all the essential AMINO ACIDS, (a comparatively new scientific nutritional discovery), PROTEINS for Body Fuel, added Pep and Energy, VITAMINS and MINERALS. Protam is safe . . . an amazing, nutritional) REDUCING FOOD SUPPLEMENT for a low calory regimen

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ASSOCIATED NUTRITION PRODUCTS, INC., Dept. 480J,
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Send me in plain package the 5 oz. Protam Plan for a Ten Day Free Trial. I will pay postman $2.50 plus postage. This money will be refunded immediately, including postage, if I do not safely REDUCE to my satisfaction within 10 Days. I RISK NOTHING.

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We Pay Postage If Check or Money Order Enclosed.

RUSH COUPON TODAY

"A Letter to Our Readers and Their Parents!"

IT IS OUR EARNEST HOPE THAT YOU ENJOY reading our magazines. You know, there are many different kinds of stories, and we get a different kind of satisfaction from each one. We like the stories of Robin Hood and the Iliad of Homer, because we can imagine ourselves heroes, overcoming the enemy. We like stories of great men in history, because they make us ambitious to do good, kind deeds. We like stories of mischievous boys like Tom Sawyer, because Tom does many of the things we would enjoy doing, but some of them we cannot do.

Some of you probably choose books with a lot of pictures, because the pictures seem to make the story live. That, to some extent, explains your interest in comics.

In our magazines, we try to give you good pictures and interesting stories. We would like to feel, also, that we are helping you to take a stand in favor of right and justice, develop respect for law and order, and learn to protect weaker people, just like the heroes in our adventure stories.

The grown-ups of this world owe you young people an apology, because we haven't made the world a very secure and peaceful place in which to live. Our comics portray, it is true, some of the unhappy things that happen in the world. But they are things you know about anyway—and in the stories, at least, the good people always win. All of us wish it were that way in real life as well.

Just as there are good and bad people, good and bad radio programs, good and bad movies, so there is good and bad literature. In order to help you always choose the good, we will continue to do our best to maintain a high standard in our own magazines.

Please remember that comics, with their many pictures, are just one type of literature. We also want you to grow familiar with the great books in our vast literary heritage, and we have no doubt that, with guidance from your parents, teachers, and town librarians, you *will* become interested in those classics, and learn to love them.

Meanwhile, don't forget, though you can get the thrill of humor and adventure in comic magazines—they should, nonetheless, be considered in two ways: Not only for the pleasure they give you, but also as a stepping-stone to your appreciation of books that have stood the test of time as reading fare for all people, young and old.

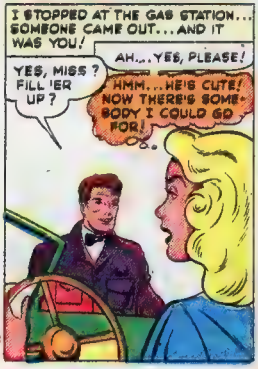
Incidentally, one of our recent editorials used the word "endorsement" in connection with Dr. Thompson's services to us as Editorial Consultant. In the interest of further clarification of Dr. Thompson's functions, we wish to state that Marvel Comic Group submits all its published magazines to Dr. Thompson for review, criticism, and report to our staff, which is under constant instruction to accept Dr. Thompson's criticisms, and to abide by the same. In this way, we constantly strive to bring better comic magazines to our vast group of readers.

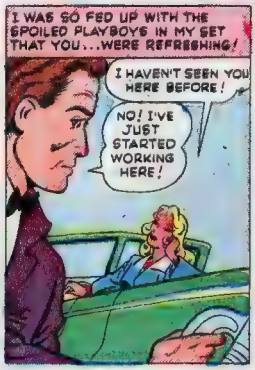
MARVEL COMIC GROUP
THE EDITORS

THEN, ONE NIGHT, IT CAME... THE MOMENT I KNEW WOULD COME... THE MOMENT I DREADED... THE MOMENT YOU SAID...
JILL, WILL YOU MARRY ME?
OH, PAT... NO... NO... I CAN'T...
CAN A LOVE BASED UPON DECEPTION RESULT IN HAPPINESS... OR MUST THE TRUTH SOME DAY COME TO LIGHT... NO MATTER WHOM IT HURTS?
BASED ON A TRUE STORY
"MY SECRET LOVE!"
IT WAS THE SOCIAL EVENT OF THE SEASON AT THE SOCIETY COLONY OF ROCKFORD, L.I.--THE WEDDING OF TOM AND NORA SIMMS! AS NORA DASHED AWAY TO CHANGE FOR HER HONEYMOON TRIP, SHE TOSSED THE BRIDAL BOUQUET TO HER BRIDESMAIDS...
HERE YOU ARE GIRLS... CATCH!
OH! LET ME GET IT!
NO-- ME!
ME!
...AND A DOZEN PAIRS OF HANDS REACHED OUT EAGERLY TO GRASP THE FLOWERS, FOR LEGEND HAS IT THAT THE GIRL WHO CATCHES THEM WILL BE THE NEXT ONE TO WED!
I'VE GOT IT! I'VE CAUGHT THE BOUQUET!
WELL! LOOKA THERE! OF ALL PEOPLE!
JILL THORNEDYKE! EVERYONE SAYS SHE'LL NEVER GET MARRIED!
HUMPH! IMAGINE OUR LITTLE MAN-HATER CATCHING THE BOUQUET!
WHAT IRONY! THE ONE GAL WHO AVOIDS ALL BOYS LIKE THE PLAGUE!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH HER! SHE HASN'T GONE WITH ANYBODY WE KNOW FOR A YEAR!
OH, WHY DON'T YOU GIRLS LEAVE HER ALONE? JILL'S ALL RIGHT!

I HEARD THEM! THEY'RE ALL LAUGHING AT ME! THEY'RE SAYING WHY SHOULDN'T SOMEONE MORE LIKELY TO BE MARRIED HAVE GOTTEN THE BOUQUET! BUT IT'S MINE! AND NOW, MAYBE IT'LL BRING ME LUCK! MAYBE... MAYBE... IT WILL BRING ME YOU, PAT, MY DARLING!

I HAD EVERYTHING -- WEALTH, GOOD LOOKS -- YES, EVERYTHING! BUT I REALLY DIDN'T START LIVING UNTIL THAT DAY A YEAR AGO, WHEN I WAS DRIVING TOWARD NEW YORK...
GAS
WHOOPS! I'M LOW ON GAS! BETTER FILL UP AT THAT STATION!

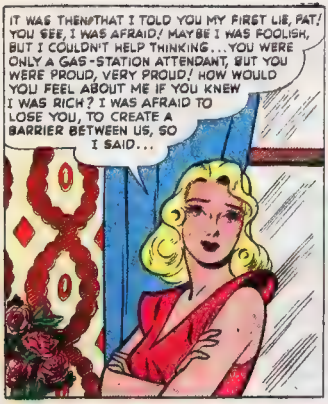

I STOPPED AT THE GAS STATION... SOMEONE CAME OUT... AND IT WAS YOU!
AH... YES, PLEASE!
YES, MISS ? FILL 'ER UP ?
HMM... HE'S CUTE! NOW THERE'S SOMEBODY I COULD GO FOR!

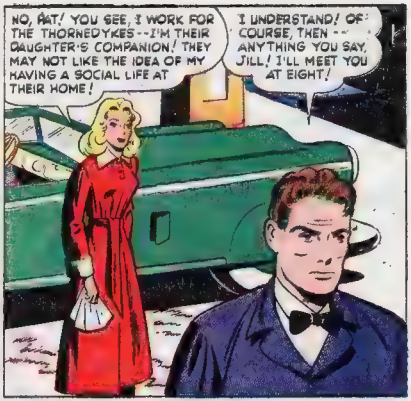

I WAS SO FED UP WITH THE SPOILED PLAYBOYS IN MY SET THAT YOU... WERE REFRESHING!
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU HERE BEFORE!
NO! I'VE JUST STARTED WORKING HERE!

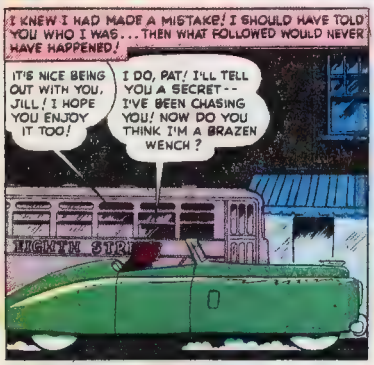
I LOVED YOUR SHYNESS AND THE WAY ONE LOCK OF HAIR FELL OVER YOUR FOREHEAD! OH! I GOT DIZZY JUST LOOKING AT YOU, MY DARLING!
ANYTHING ELSE, MISS ?
THAT'S ALL... FOR NOW! I'LL BE BY AGAIN SOON... PAT!

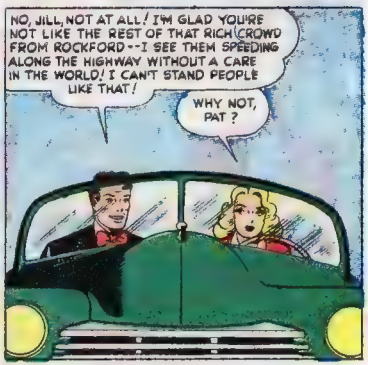
AND I WAS, TOO! YOU REMEMBER, SWEETHEART, I CAME BY EVERY DAY, SEEKING EVERY EXCUSE TO SEE YOU AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN! THEN, ONE DAY, I SUCCEEDED! YOU ASKED ME FOR A DATE...
WHY, PAT! I'D LOVE TO GO OUT WITH YOU! WHERE'LL WE GO ?
SOME PLACE QUIET, JILL! I DON'T LIKE NOISY PLACES! DO YOU ?

OH, NO! ANYTHING YOU SAY! ER... I'LL MEET YOU AT SOUTH AND BROAD STREETS! OKAY ?
OH... I THOUGHT I'D PICK YOU UP AT YOUR HOME!


IT WAS THEN THAT I TOLD YOU MY FIRST LIE, PAT! YOU SEE, I WAS AFRAID! MAYBE I WAS FOOLISH, BUT I COULDN'T HELP THINKING... YOU WERE ONLY A GAS-STATION ATTENDANT, BUT YOU WERE PROUD, VERY PROUD! HOW WOULD YOU FEEL ABOUT ME IF YOU KNEW I WAS RICH? I WAS AFRAID TO LOSE YOU, TO CREATE A BARRIER BETWEEN US, SO I SAID...


NO, PAT! YOU SEE, I WORK FOR THE THORNEDYKES--I'M THEIR DAUGHTER'S COMPANION! THEY MAY NOT LIKE THE IDEA OF MY HAVING A SOCIAL LIFE AT THEIR HOME!
I UNDERSTAND! OF COURSE, THEN -- ANYTHING YOU SAY, JILL! I'LL MEET YOU AT EIGHT!

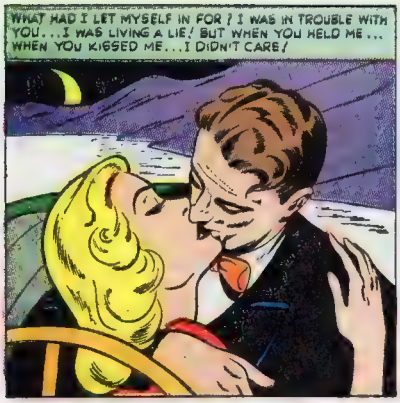

I KNEW I HAD MADE A MISTAKE! I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU WHO I WAS... THEN WHAT FOLLOWED WOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED!
IT'S NICE BEING OUT WITH YOU, JILL! I HOPE YOU ENJOY IT TOO!
I DO, PAT! I'LL TELL YOU A SECRET -- I'VE BEEN CHASING YOU! NOW DO YOU THINK I'M A BRAZEN WENCH?
EIGHTH STR

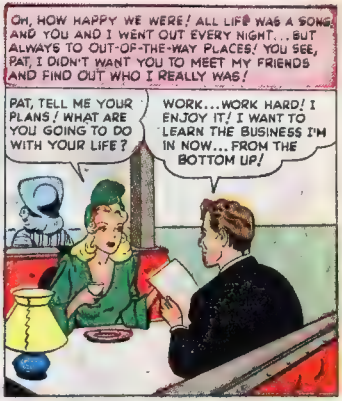

NO, JILL, NOT AT ALL! I'M GLAD YOU'RE NOT LIKE THE REST OF THAT RICH CROWD FROM ROCKFORD--I SEE THEM SPEEDING ALONG THE HIGHWAY WITHOUT A CARE IN THE WORLD! I CAN'T STAND PEOPLE LIKE THAT!
WHY NOT, PAT?

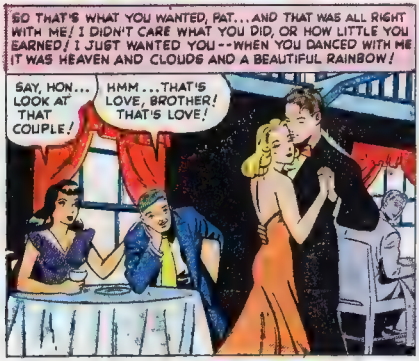
THEY'RE SPOILED, THAT'S WHY! THEY'VE GOT RICH PARENTS WHO GIVE THEM EVERYTHING THEY WANT! THEY DON'T WORK... THEY DON'T PLAN... DRIFTERS... THAT'S ALL THEY ARE... DRIFTERS!
OH...
ST

I STOPPED THE CAR THEN... YOU TURNED TO ME AND SAID...
NO, JILL! THAT LIFE, THAT CROWD IS NOT FOR ME! LIFE IS A LITTLE MORE EARNEST! THERE'S TOO MUCH TO BE DONE IN THIS WORLD TO WASTE TIME AS THEY DO! I'M GLAD YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THEM!
PAT--

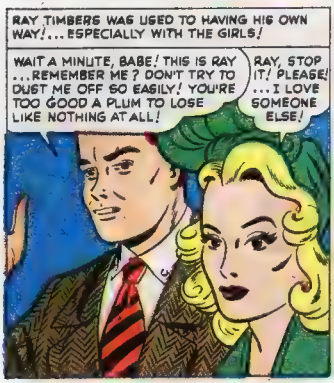
BECAUSE YOU'RE THE FIRST GIRL I'VE EVER MET THAT I CARED FOR! JILL... I-I--
OH, PAT...


WHAT HAD I LET MYSELF IN FOR? I WAS IN TROUBLE WITH YOU...I WAS LIVING A LIE! BUT WHEN YOU HELD ME... WHEN YOU KISSED ME...I DIDN'T CARE!


OH, HOW HAPPY WE WERE! ALL LIFE WAS A SONG, AND YOU AND I WENT OUT EVERY NIGHT...BUT ALWAYS TO OUT-OF-THE-WAY PLACES! YOU SEE, PAT, I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO MEET MY FRIENDS AND FIND OUT WHO I REALLY WAS!
PAT, TELL ME YOUR PLANS! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH YOUR LIFE?
WORK...WORK HARD! I ENJOY IT! I WANT TO LEARN THE BUSINESS I'M IN NOW...FROM THE BOTTOM UP!

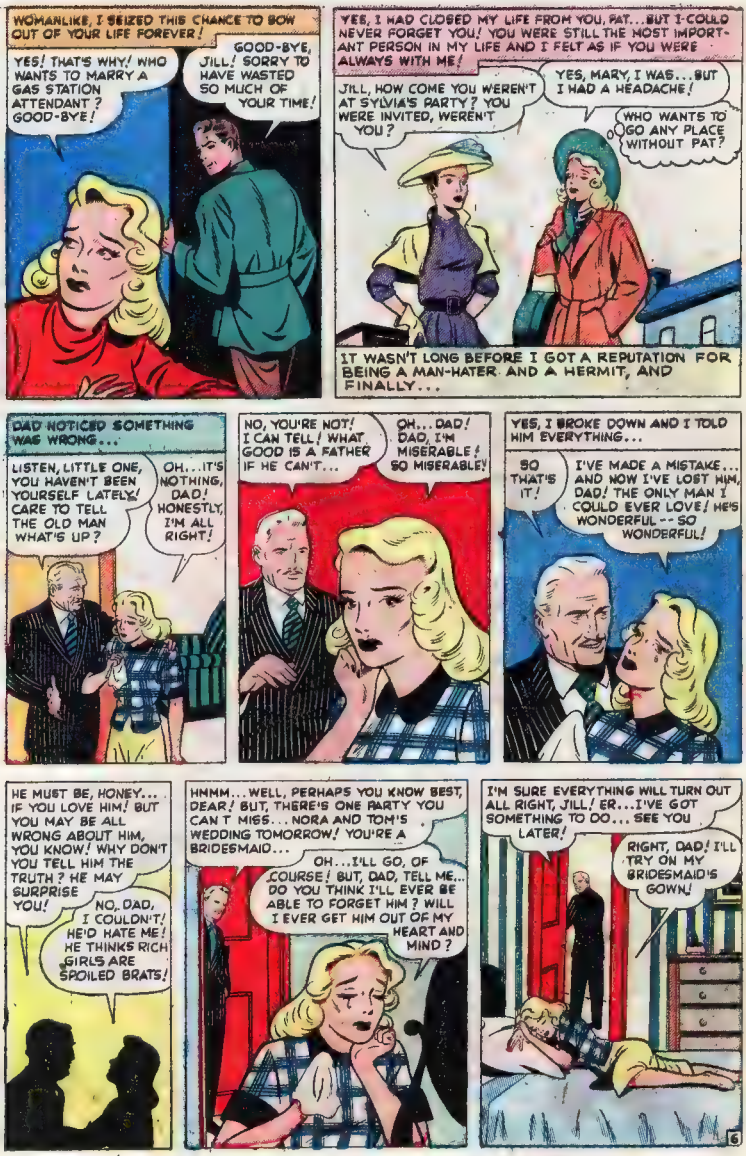

SO THAT'S WHAT YOU WANTED, PAT...AND THAT WAS ALL RIGHT WITH ME! I DIDN'T CARE WHAT YOU DID, OR HOW LITTLE YOU EARNED! I JUST WANTED YOU--WHEN YOU DANCED WITH ME IT WAS HEAVEN AND CLOUDS AND A BEAUTIFUL RAINBOW!
SAY, HON... LOOK AT THAT COUPLE!
HMM...THAT'S LOVE, BROTHER! THAT'S LOVE!

WHEN I LEARNED TO KNOW YOU, I LOST INTEREST IN ALL THE OTHER BOYS I KNEW!
HEY, JILL, WHERE'VE YOU BEEN KEEPING YOURSELF? GOT A SECRET LOVE YOU'RE HIDING FROM US STAGG?
I'VE BEEN BUSY, RAY! GOT NO TIME FOR THE GAY LIFE!

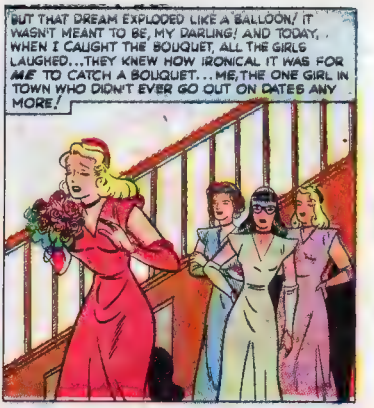

RAY TIMBERS WAS USED TO HAVING HIS OWN WAY!...ESPECIALLY WITH THE GIRLS!
WAIT A MINUTE, BABE! THIS IS RAY ...REMEMBER ME? DON'T TRY TO DUST ME OFF SO EASILY! YOU'RE TOO GOOD A PLUM TO LOSE LIKE NOTHING AT ALL!
RAY, STOP IT! PLEASE! ...I LOVE SOMEONE ELSE!

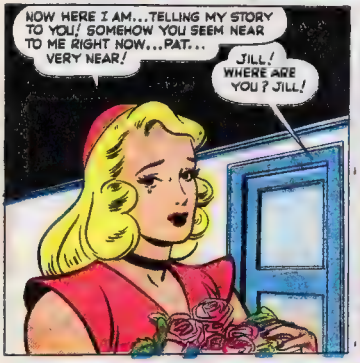
OH? SO? WELL! WELL! I CAN SEE, THOUGH, THAT "SOMEONE ELSE" DOESN'T FEEL THAT WAY ABOUT YOU! UNLESS THESE JAUNDICED EYES DECEIVE ME, YOU'RE NOT VERY HAPPY, ARE YOU?
NO, RAY... I'M NOT!

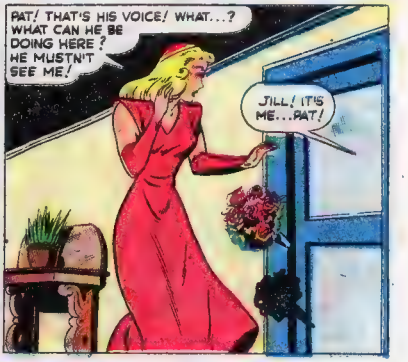
LOOK, KID... I MAY FOOL AROUND A LOT... BUT I'M REALLY CRAZY ABOUT YOU! WHY NOT GIVE UP ON THIS GUY, WHOEVER HE IS... AND MARRY ME?
OH... LEAVE ME ALONE! I TOLD YOU--I LOVE HIM!
I WAS CONFUSED... VERY MUCH SO! THIS THING HAD GONE BEYOND MY CONTROL! HOW COULD I TELL YOU? YOU'D HATE ME! YOU'D NEVER SEE ME AGAIN! OH, PAT, PAT, I COULDN'T BEAR HAVING YOU HATE ME... WHEN I LOVED YOU SO MUCH! IF I HAD KNOWN HOW IT WOULD END! BUT I DIDN'T... THEN...
SO I DROPPED ALL MY FRIENDS! I STOPPED MY FORMER LIFE AND SPENT EVERY MOMENT EITHER WITH YOU... OR DREAMING OF YOU...
COME ON, HONEY! I'LL RACE YOU TO THAT TREE!
OKAY! THE LOSER GETS A KISS FROM THE WINNER!
...AND WE FED THE GLOWING EMBERS OF OUR LOVE WITH OUR KISSES!
DARLING, DARLING, I LOVE YOU SO MUCH!
OH, PAT!
THEN, ONE NIGHT, IT CAME... THE MOMENT I KNEW WOULD COME... THE MOMENT I DREADED... THE MOMENT YOU SAID...
JILL, WILL YOU MARRY ME?
OH, PAT... NO... NO... I CAN'T...
YOU SEE, MY DARLING, I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW I HAD BEEN LYING TO YOU, SO I SAID...
I CAN'T MARRY YOU, PAT! THANKS FOR ASKING ME... BUT...
I SEE! IT'S BECAUSE I HAVEN'T GOT A BETTER JOB, ISN'T IT?

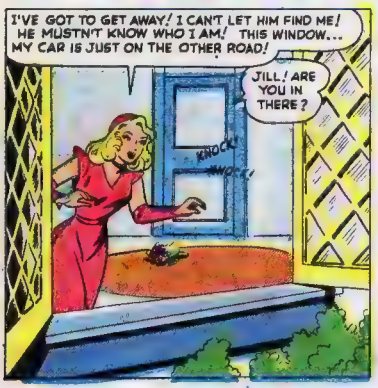

WOMANLIKE, I SEIZED THIS CHANCE TO BOW OUT OF YOUR LIFE FOREVER!
YES! THAT'S WHY! WHO WANTS TO MARRY A GAS STATION ATTENDANT? GOOD-BYE!
GOOD-BYE, JILL! SORRY TO HAVE WASTED SO MUCH OF YOUR TIME!
YES, I HAD CLOSED MY LIFE FROM YOU, PAT...BUT I COULD NEVER FORGET YOU! YOU WERE STILL THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN MY LIFE AND I FELT AS IF YOU WERE ALWAYS WITH ME!
JILL, HOW COME YOU WEREN'T AT SYLVIA'S PARTY? YOU WERE INVITED, WEREN'T YOU?
YES, MARY, I WAS...BUT I HAD A HEADACHE!
WHO WANTS TO GO ANY PLACE WITHOUT PAT?
IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE I GOT A REPUTATION FOR BEING A MAN-HATER AND A HERMIT, AND FINALLY...
DAD NOTICED SOMETHING WAS WRONG...
LISTEN, LITTLE ONE, YOU HAVEN'T BEEN YOURSELF LATELY! CARE TO TELL THE OLD MAN WHAT'S UP?
OH...IT'S NOTHING, DAD! HONESTLY, I'M ALL RIGHT!
NO, YOU'RE NOT! I CAN TELL! WHAT GOOD IS A FATHER IF HE CAN'T...
OH...DAD! DAD, I'M MISERABLE! SO MISERABLE!
YES, I BROKE DOWN AND I TOLD HIM EVERYTHING...
SO THAT'S IT!
I'VE MADE A MISTAKE... AND NOW I'VE LOST HIM, DAD! THE ONLY MAN I COULD EVER LOVE! HE'S WONDERFUL -- SO WONDERFUL!
HE MUST BE, HONEY... IF YOU LOVE HIM! BUT YOU MAY BE ALL WRONG ABOUT HIM, YOU KNOW! WHY DON'T YOU TELL HIM THE TRUTH? HE MAY SURPRISE YOU!
NO, DAD, I COULDN'T! HE'D HATE ME! HE THINKS RICH GIRLS ARE SPOILED BRATS!
HMMM...WELL, PERHAPS YOU KNOW BEST, DEAR! BUT, THERE'S ONE PARTY YOU CAN'T MISS...NORA AND TOM'S WEDDING TOMORROW! YOU'RE A BRIDESMAID...
OH...I'LL GO, OF COURSE! BUT, DAD, TELL ME... DO YOU THINK I'LL EVER BE ABLE TO FORGET HIM? WILL I EVER GET HIM OUT OF MY HEART AND MIND?
I'M SURE EVERYTHING WILL TURN OUT ALL RIGHT, JILL! ER...I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO DO... SEE YOU LATER!
RIGHT, DAD! I'LL TRY ON MY BRIDESMAID'S GOWN!
6

THE BRIDESMAID'S GOWN! PINK AND LOVELY! IT WAS EASY TO IMAGINE THAT I WAS A BRIDE... AND YOU WERE STANDING NEXT TO ME... MY GROOM!
AND DO YOU TAKE THIS MAN FOR YOUR LAWFUL WEDDED HUSBAND ?
OH, I DO! I DO!


BUT THAT DREAM EXPLODED LIKE A BALLOON! IT WASN'T MEANT TO BE, MY DARLING! AND TODAY, WHEN I CAUGHT THE BOUQUET, ALL THE GIRLS LAUGHED... THEY KNEW HOW IRONICAL IT WAS FOR ME TO CATCH A BOUQUET... ME, THE ONE GIRL IN TOWN WHO DIDN'T EVER GO OUT ON DATES ANY MORE!


NOW HERE I AM... TELLING MY STORY TO YOU! SOMEHOW YOU SEEM NEAR TO ME RIGHT NOW... PAT... VERY NEAR!
JILL! WHERE ARE YOU ? JILL!


PAT! THAT'S HIS VOICE! WHAT...? WHAT CAN HE BE DOING HERE ? HE MUSTN'T SEE ME!
JILL! IT'S ME... PAT!


I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY! I CAN'T LET HIM FIND ME! HE MUSTN'T KNOW WHO I AM! THIS WINDOW... MY CAR IS JUST ON THE OTHER ROAD!
JILL! ARE YOU IN THERE ?
KNOCK KNOCK!

THERE SHE GOES, PAT! CATCH HER!
THANKS, MR. THORNEDYKE! HEY, YOU LOVELY CRAZY THING-- STOP!

I SAID WAIT A MINUTE JILL! YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY FROM LOVE!
PAT! OH, MY PAT! HOW DID YOU FIND ME? YOU MUST HATE ME! I LIED TO YOU! I'M RICH... SPOILED! YOU CAN'T LOVE ME! LET ME GO!
WAIT, BABY! ONE QUESTION AT A TIME! FIRST OFF -- YOUR FATHER TOLD ME THE WHOLE STORY! SECONDLY, I KNEW WHO YOU REALLY WERE ALL THE TIME -- I KNEW YOU WERE JILL THORNEDYKE -- WEALTHY AND BEAUTIFUL!
YOU KNEW? FROM THE VERY BEGINNING?
YES, DARLING! I WANTED TO BE SURE THAT YOU'D GIVE UP YOUR FORMER LIFE TO LIVE ON AN ATTENDANT'S SALARY!
FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE... IF YOU STILL WANT ME!
IF YOU STILL WANT ME, DEAR! YOU SEE, I LIED TO YOU, TOO! ER... MY FATHER OWNS THAT CHAIN OF GAS STATIONS... I WAS TRYING TO LEARN THE BUSINESS, AS I SAID! I FELL FOR YOU LIKE A TON OF BRICKS! BUT... I'M PROBABLY RICHER THAN YOU -- BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO MARRY A MINK-DRAPED DOLL!
OH... PAT!
YOU'RE FOR ME, DARLING! WILL YOU HAVE ME?
OH, PAT! I'M SO HAPPY... SO HAPPY! I'M LIVING AGAIN!
AHEM!... CAN I WISH MY LITTLE GIRL HAPPINESS?
OH, DAD! YOU FOUND HIM FOR ME! YOU WONDERFUL OLD CUPID, YOU!
YES... IF IT WASN'T FOR HIM, I'D NEVER HAVE FOUND YOU, DARLING!
THERE'S NO PLACE IN LOVE FOR DECEPTION, JILL! BUT IF I CATCH YOU AT IT AGAIN... THIS IS HOW I'LL STOP YOU!
SWEETHEART, I LIED TO YOU ONCE... BUT IT'LL BE THE LAST TIME IN ALL OUR LIFE TOGETHER!
THE END

GIVEN! ACT NOW MAIL COUPON GIVEN!

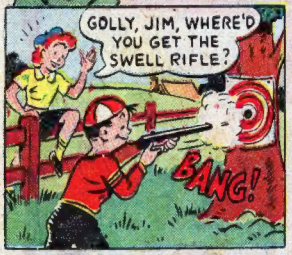
IT'S EASY! IT'S FUN! SEND NO MONEY NOW WE TRUST YOU BE FIRST

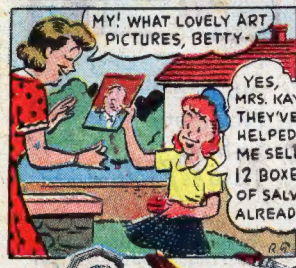
Genuine 22 cal. Rifles, 1000 shot Daisy Air Rifles with tube of shot. Clocks. Footballs. Blankets (sent postage paid). Boys' and Girls' Bicycles (express collect). Many other personal and household Premiums or Cash Commissions easily yours. Be First. Mail coupon AT ONCE!

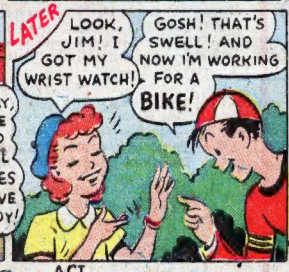
Simply give beautiful art pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE for chaps and mild burns, easily sold to friends at 25c a box (with picture) and remit amount asked under Premium shown in catalog sent with order (postage paid) to start. Mail coupon now.

Dolls (over 18 inches tall) Movie Projectors. Cameras. Wrist Watches. Pocket Watches (sent postage paid). Give art pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE sold at 25c a box (with picture) and remit per catalog sent with order to start. Mail coupon now.

How Wishes CAME TRUE for Jim and Betty!







DOZENS OF VALUABLE PREMIUMS IN OUR BIG CATALOG

Rifles — Watches — Footballs — Dolls — School-Boxes — Pen & Pencil Sets Flashlights — Telescopes Blankets — Towels Aluminum Ware — Movie Machines.

MAIL COUPON NOW.

ACT NOW

ACT NOW

NO MONEY NOW! WE TRUST YOU

Wrist Watches, Pocket Watches, Alarm Clocks (sent postage paid) now easily yours. Simply give colorful art pictures with white CLOVERINE Brand SALVE, easily sold at 25c a box (with picture) and remit amount asked for under Premium in catalog sent with order (postage paid) to start. Mail Coupon Now.

Wilson Chem. Co., Dept. 148, Tyrone, Pa., Date .....

Gentlemen: Please send me an trial twelve colorful art pictures with twelve boxes of white CLOVERINE Brand SALVE to sell at 25c a box (with picture) I will remit amount asked within 30 days, select a Premium or keep Cash Commission as fully explained under Premium wanted in catalog sent with order, postage paid to start.

Name..... Age .....

St..... RD..... Box.....

Town..... Zone No..... State.....

Print Last Name Here

Paste coupon on postal card or mail in an envelope today.

BLACKHEADS "PET HATE"

Say Men, Girls in Choosing Date

What a "black mark" is the blackhead . . . according to men and girls popular enough to be choosy about dates!

"Nobody's dreamboat!" "Nobody's date bait!" And that's not all that's said of those who are careless about blackheads. But blackheads ARE ugly! Blackheads ARE grimy! And they DON'T look good in close-ups!

So can you blame the fellow who says, "Sure, I meet lots of girls who look cute at first glance. But if, on that second glance, I see dingy blackheads, it's *good night!*"

Or can you blame the girl who confesses, "I hate to go out with a fellow who has blackheads. If he's careless about that you're sure he'll embarrass you in other ways, too!"

But you—are YOUR ears burning? Well, you've company and, sad to say, good company. There are lots of otherwise attractive fellows and girls who could date anyone they like if they'd only realize how offensive blackheads are . . . and how easily and quickly they could get rid of them . . . if they *want to*!

"He-Man" Often Guilty of Blackhead Crime

Take your "he-man" . . . super at track, games, sports of all kinds . . . who thinks that after just a shower he's ready to go anywhere! And won't the girls all admire his muscles!

Sure they would! But not many dance floors are set up for hurdle races! You can't show off your snappy left hook when only cokes are in the ring. The "he-man" who's also clean-cut, will get the breaks wherever he is.

Even Cute Girls Become Careless

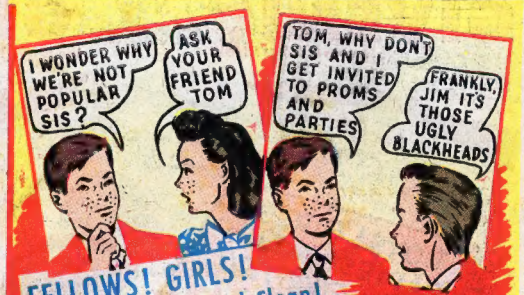
Easy, too easy, for a girl to think that if she has the latest in clothes and hair-do she needn't bother about blackheads. A little more make-up, she guesses, will take care of that. BUT MAKE-UP WON'T HIDE BLACKHEADS! Not unless it's plaster of paris, maybe! And even good make-up "slips" at a dance! So don't take chances, cute though you may be!

TAKE THESE TIPS TO BANISH BLACKHEADS

Keep skin clean by washing morning and night with warm, almost hot, water. Use good soap and plenty of it. And finish with cool water.

Extract every blackhead as soon as you see it—with a SAFE extractor. Don't use finger nails. Don't squeeze. That may mean infection, injured tissues, a marred skin.

Just be clean! Be quick! And be safe! That's easy! And that's ALL!


I WONDER WHY WE'RE NOT POPULAR SIS?
ASK YOUR FRIEND TOM
TOM, WHY DON'T SIS AND I GET INVITED TO PROMS AND PARTIES
FRANKLY, JIM IT'S THOSE UGLY BLACKHEADS

FELLOWS! GIRLS!

Keep Skin Clear and Clean!

UGLY BLACKHEADS OUT in Seconds with VACUTEX

NEW! SCIENTIFIC! VACUUM ACTION!

Amazing new VACUTEX is painless . . . safe . . . fast! In seconds you are rid of those ugly blackheads that clog the pores . . . make your skin look grimy and dingy . . . give others such a wrong impression of you. VACUTEX creates a gentle vacuum pressure around the blackhead and extracts it—quickly!—without injury to tender skin tissues. Keep skin always clear this new scientific way. Without painful squeezing! Without dangerous infection from germy fingers! Just place VACUTEX over blackhead and draw back extractor. Blackhead's out! Simple! But you'll be delighted by your instantly improved appearance. Others will notice your clearer, cleaner skin! Try VACUTEX—now!

ACTUAL LENGTH 3½"

RUSH COUPON NOW!

10 DAY TRIAL OFFER

No Squeezing
No Infection
No Injury to Skin Tissues!

Just place VACUTEX over blackhead—release extractor—and blackhead's out!

Don't send a penny. Mail coupon and pay postman only $1.00 plus postage. Or save all postage by enclosing $1.00 with guarantee coupon. If not thrilled to be rid of embarrassing hated blackheads this new quick way—just return VACUTEX in 10 days and get $1 back. Order today!

10 DAY TRIAL GUARANTEE

BALLCO PRODUCTS COMPANY, Dept. 4002
19 West 44th St., New York 18, N. Y.

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☐ Ship C.O.D. I will pay postman $1.00 plus postage.

My dollar will be refunded if I am not delighted.

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ADDRESS_____

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